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WEEKLY

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DAVID CERVINSKI dding more bite to the Wolves' pack

Plus

- English Premier League p31
- David Ratcliffe p6
- 'The Good Oil' Reurns p5

SOCCER WEEKL

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Write to Bruce McAvaney at PO Box Epping, NSW 2121 Remember, Soccer won the survey for most popular football code in their recent Net site poll.

CONFED CUP KICKS OFF

The Confederations Cup has began in Mexico with Copa America champions Brazil teaching former masters Germany a lesson, smashing them 4-0.

For all the latest news on the Confederations Cup, turn to page 20.

The Milan masters, former coach Sacchill) and club president Berlusconi(r) at the invelling of the new AC Milan side. For more news on what went on, turn to page 23

COLOSIMO SAGA STILL

DRAGS ON

he Simon Colosimo saga continues to drag on and there is no idea when or how this mess will be put to

This story has now taken another twist with the chance of compensation for the reckless tackle put on by Andy Cole now becoming a realistic chance for the club and the player.

A prominent law firm was appointed by Carlton, to represent Colosimo, who are seeking possible compensation from Manchester United over Andy Cole's tackle at Stadium Australia. The tackle has jeopardized Simon Colosimo's soccer

Legal firm Slater and Gordon, regarded as one of the country's best advocates, is considering legal action against Manchester United and star striker Cole.

The young Carlton star has been ruled out for a minimum of six months with damaged knee ligaments.

Colosimo required a complete knee reconstruction following

the challenge put on him by Andy Cole during the recent tour of Australia.

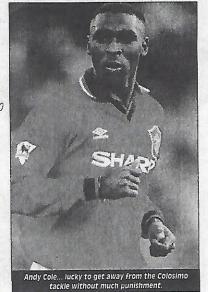
Carlton approached the law firm after a number of international lawyers contacted the club saying they were interested in representing the player and the club.

Although why wouldn't there be a host of lawyers lining up for the chance to get at United?

United are the most successful and the richest club in the world and the amount of money that United stand to lose should this case go through will surely lead into the

Solicitor Peter Gordon however was scentical about whether he would take the case saying that he would firstly take a better look at the incident before making a decision on whether to take the

With the firms own reputation at risk, the case does hold for a rocky road all involved.



Carlton was obviously disgusted by the tackle especially as it was only a friendly game, but a tackle which has ended up benching one of the nations most promising players.

Colosimo was due to begin trials in Europe next month but now it looks as though this season in Europe for Colosimo is no longer a reality.

Only a matter of weeks before the United game, Colosimo was in Greece impressing two of the

countries top club sides. United have issued a statement saying that the player and the club are extremely upset, but the sad part

is the damage has been done.

The club released a message on behave of the player saying that he was sorry for what happened and wished the player a speedy recovery although we haven't heard it coming

from Cole himself. "Andy has sent a private message to Simon together with his best wishes for a speedy recovery," it

But in a twist of events. Colosimo said that he had not recieved any message from Cole.

Colosimo underwent surgery on the weekend, and while Colosimo suffers, Cole pockets a cool pay cheque each week. Is there any justice in this world, well in this case, NO.



Simon Colosimo .. future in doubt

Australian News



By John Economos

met Durakovic, the former Australian international player, threw his Ericsson League club, Sydney Olympic into total turmoil last

that Durakovic was about to part company with his Sydney club in order to return to his home state of Victoria

However on the weekend when ABSW confronted Olympic coach, Branko Culina

DURAKOVIC SHOCK FOR OLYMPIC

as to what is really happening with Durakovic, the coach dispelled all uncertainties on the player's future with Olympic stating, "no, it's not true."

"Mehmet still has another one

year on his contract to serve at Olympic."

Culina went on to conclude: "Don't believe everything that you hear that is

being banded around about Durakovic.

Despite Culins'a assurances on the star Olympic sweeper remaining in Sydney, ABSW tracked down the (0) 3711 offices of the Real Estate agency that is handling the lease of the Drummoyne appartment

where Durakovic resides with his wife. Zumretta and his two daughters.

Much to our surprise, the Real Estate agent informed us that Durakovic had infact handed his keys to his appartment and terminated the lease to return

home to Melbourne.

The Durakovic family suddenly flew out of Sydney bound for Melbourne last

It is understood that the quality defender's father, who resides in Melbourne, is ill which has understandably strongly influenced the Olympic sweeper to shift his family back to Melbourne immediately.

Durakovic returned to Australia to Melbourne from a five year

playing stint in the Malaysian National Soccer League with giant club side,

The giant Selangor club is regarded as the Manchester United of Asian soccer with home crowds of 85,000 to most home games

The well respected Durakovic was bestowed with the honor of becoming the club's only foreign captain after he was given the task as the leader of the side during his stay at the club.

Should Olympic lose the quality services of their star lateral defender for this coming Ericsson Cup season, the loss would be most severly missed at



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Aussie duo move to

Stephen Laybutt is to join the ever increasing list of Aussies moving abroad after struggling J-League club Bellmare Hiratsuka announced that they had signed the Australian defender for the remainder of the

Japanese season.

The 21-year-old shot to prominace over the past two weeks with two fantastic performances for the Socceroos against Manchester United.

The former Brisbane Strikers defender who is also an integral part of the Australian Olyroo side, is currently with his new team in Japan and is now only waiting upon his medical

new team in Japan and is now only waiting upon his medical before he can commence his carrier at the club.

The defender was one of Australia's best players during the recent tour by Manchester United as he rose above all expectations to show that the youngster has come of age as he kept United's deadly strikeforce at bay and he certainly did not allow his more popular opponents to intimidate him.

Layburt however is not the only Australian who is leaving our boarse of the normed defender will be injured by his former.

our shores as the young defender will be joined by his former teammate at the Brisbane strikers, Chay Hews, who is also making his way over to Japan to play for Bellmare,

This is is a huge step in the career of Laybutt and it means that yet another member of our strong Olyroo squad for next years Olympics will be playing at a tough and competitive level in preperartion for next years Olympics.



list of Aussies playing abroad.

their Olympic quest. ABSW

From all at both wish Chay Hews all the best in

indeed look well for the Olyroos in

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ROADSHOW ENTERTAINMENT

Australian News



Andrew Durante... our prayers go out to him to make a speedy recovery.

By Mark Stavroulakis

Comething that has come as a shock to many people in the sporting world here in Australia has been the recent shooting of a 17 year old boy at a trial game in Sydney's inner west.
On Sunday 25th, UTS Olympic held their annual 2nd

Grade Trials for the up and coming Ericcson Cup

What started as a vigorous and skilful match, ended in a brutal and violent encounter that shocked many people that were present at Mahoney Park in Marrickville.

It was about 12.00pm, a game was being played as always, fast, tough, furious, trials being that sought of way. Many people were watching this match, parents, little kids, and some players who had been rested for this

As the game progressed, 17-year-old promising defensive midfielder Andrew Durante was struck below the chest with a bullet, which was believed to have been from a rifle.

The game stopped automatically, as many bystanders and worried parents gathered their kids together in a plot

SOCCER PLAYER SHOT IN SYDNEY LOCAL PARK

this incident has occurred on the outskirts of Mahoney Park, Earlier, about 10.30 that day there were sounds of gun shots at the golf course directly beside Mahoney Park, no one was injured, but unfortunately it struck the next park on a boy who is loved by so many people.

Many people had mixed emotions after this terrible ordeal happened, players were bewildered, parents were scared for the safeness of their children.

Many people ask the question what has this society become? Now it's not even safe to walk outside your door and have a game of soccer, this in my mind has triggered signs of disgracefulness.

Those people involved should be ashamed for themselves, as what they done was nothing but an immoral, vulgar act on a very loved 17 year old boy, who has his whole life ahead of

evident at this morose scene, as they felt something had to have been said in order to outlaw these immoral crimes. 14 year old Nicholas Stavroulakis, a member of the Under 14's of UTS

Olympic had this to say. "I was standing approximately 3-4 meters away from Andrew, when suddenly, as he turned to approach his dad, a bullet whistled passed me and a few others and struck Andrew in the chest.

"This has defiantly shocked me, and now sparks a question that this world is far becoming too brutal. I wish my best mate a quick recovery.

At that time playing on the field, 16 year old Anthony Sarmonikas, currently in UTS Olympic Under 16's also heard the bullet whistle passed his ear.

'As I was playing, I heard a bullet whistle pass my ear. I for one hope for Andrews's quick recovery, and hope this sought of immoral behavior is stopped

A very dazed and shocked parent Notis Makris had this to say following the shooting.
"I heard a couple of shots before, but when I saw

Andrew get hit, I was just placed in a shock, and now I'm wondering how lucky some of us are, including my son, who was next to Andrew, did not get shot. I hope Andrew gets well and we will see him back in the 2nd

Manager of UTS Olympic, Chris Bouzanis was the

one who rang up the ambulance and police as soon as this terrible ordeal happened.

'As soon as I saw Andrew get hit. I quickly rang the Police and Ambulance to assist this very loved boy, who is well known to the club as being a great player. I wish Andrew the best of luck."

The man at the reigns of UTS Olympic 2nd grade is none other than the ever ready coach himself Peter Papanikitas.

"Out of all the years I have been coaching, there has never been an incident in which this has occurred to me," said Papanikitas

"It just goes to show how immoral kids have become these days. I wish for Andrew's safeness and hope to see him back on the park where he belongs.

"He is a talented and most loved person, and hopefully we see Andrew's eveready presence on the pitch again

We all just hope these mindless people get caught in the act, and teach them a lesson or two on ho respect human kind.

Life is a very precious gift, and for some sick people, who think shooting is a game, who almostwent out and ended a promising 17 year old boy's life, then I hope they get locked up for life.

It's not good for the game, it's not good for human society and the future does not look good with senseless thugs like those at question, patrolling our streets.

Thankfully, Andrew is recovering well from this incident which no doubt will be evident in his mind for the rest of his many wonderful years.

Andrew was rushed to Prince Alfred Hospital in Newtown, and had a special operation, luckily the bullet swayed to the left under his right side

Now, "Durante", known to his mates is resting easily and no doubt wondering when the next trials are on, as



Investigations have started, and the police are trying to find out any leads on those responsible for this terrible act.

his dream will be fulfilled in becoming a professional soccer player although this dream was only a matter of inches of being shattered.

Vidmar goes home

with Adelaide City, his former National League club side, Vidmar returns to the club after eight years overseas playing in Belgium, Holland, Spain, Switzerland and Japan.



Milan Ivanovic... is this the end of the road for one of the

He enjoyed considerable success in Europe, particularly in Belgium when he won the award for the top goalscorer whilst with Ståndard Liege.

Following that, he had disappointing spells with Feyenoord in Holland and Spanish club Tenerife.

Vidmar played for the Socceroos in their past three games over the last month and was one of the best players showing leadership and class over the field.

Vidmar isn't the only new face to be joining City. The club also announced the capture of Olyroo Ivan Zelic from Canberra Cosmos.

Zelic, who South Melbourne also had an interest in, is seen as a replacement for veteran sweeper Milan Ivanovic who is not sure whether he will be playing on or not.

So far the club has lost three players including David Terminello who has joined Carlton and Travis Dodd who is on his way to Newcastle Breakers.

Dino Mennillo has also left City, he'll join new club Auckland Kings in their firt season of top flight football.

Angelo Costanzo is currently in Scotland trialing with Hibernian who last season won promotion back to the Scottish Premier



Aurelio Vidmar has gone back to South Australia to play for his former Ericsson Cup club, Adelaide City

GOOD OIL ... GOOD OIL ... GOOD OIL

By John Economos

ydney United late last week signed up former Northern Spirit defender Eddy Bosnar. The former AIS athlete and Sydney

2000 Olympic squad member, w

released by Spirits' player coach Graham Arnold recently and was quickly snapped up by United's newly David Ratcliffe.



Ironically, United

United faces Northern Spirit in Round 1 in the co season, to be played on October 3 at the Sydney United Sports Centre.

Meanwhile well prior to the new Ericsson League season starting, Sydney United will travel to China to participate in the Heng Shou Tang Cup, the Shanghai International Football Tournament starting on 17th August through to the 24th.

The Sydney team's first match in this Chinese Tournament is on Tuesday 17th of August against a Uruguayan first

vision side. United's other two tournament opponents are a Japanese side in Game 2 with the final match to be battled against the host City, Shanghai.

Already United has put together a package for supporters wishing to travel with the team in the Club's historic crusade.

The tour package costs \$1,600 for a 10 day stay at Shanghai and Beijing, including airfares and accommodation.

Fans expressing a desire to make the inaugural tour into China must contact the Sydney United club's offices this

Marconi's Soccer Secretary Frank Labbozzetta, flew out of Sydney last week heading for Italy, Milan in fact, on an urgent mission in an attempt to entice two players to come to the 'Palace'.

'Good Oil' is not at liberty to say much, but for our readers, we can say at this stage that one 'target' is a former AS Roma attacking midfielder that starred for Italy in the 1990 World Cup finals.

'Human Resources', Juric is expected back in Sydney this Friday and upon his return will make his final decision.

avid Cervinski, the former Carlton and Melbourne Knights' goalscoring stopper, last week signed up with Wollongong Wolves on a two year contract.

The pony-tailed, 84kg defender standing at 184cms will easily be the Wolves' biggest defender

It's hoped by all Wolves' supporters that Cervinski's arrival at Brandon Park will also bring them some luck as David has played in no less than four Grand Finals over the past five seasons.

At the end of last season, Cervinski left Carlton to play for Gombak in the S-League in Singapore.

DADA

Tince Grella, Australia's tough tackling defensive midfielder flew out of Melbourne for Italy last Friday to

re-join his club Empoli.

The dynamic Grella returned to Melbourne for a short break and to play for National Coach Raul Blanco's team against the touring treble champions Manchester United.

It was Grella's sheer tenacity that

frustrated United's central midfielder Nicky Butt that ultimately saw the English midfielder lash out at Grella in the second half in the Melbourne battle.



delaide City last week signed up two Australian internationals to bolster their squad for the coming Ericsson League

The 'Black and Whites' favourite son and Australian World Cup attacking midfielder Aurelio Vidmar, has finally returned 'home', and imagine how jubilant coach Zoran Matic was to see him back in South Australia. 'Viddy' had left the Club seven years ago

to play in Holland, Belgium, Spain and last season was in Japan with Eddie Thomson's J-League side Hiroshima.

As well, Matic late last week signed up Youth international defender and the Canberra Cosmos' skipper, Ivan Zelic on a two year contract.

OVOV



George Bouhoutsos, Sydney Olympic's powerful goal-keeper, is sur-prisingly calling it a day as far as playing in the Ericsson National League.

The well built custodian, despite

still having another year to serve under contract, informed the Club's management that due to business and family reasons he's decided to hang up

his gloves, despite his relative young age. This news caught the Club by surpris and it first appeared to be a big loss to the

However, last Friday despite a club nique sent out informing the press of George's pending retirement, the Olympic goalkeeper was being quoted in sections of the Greek media that in fact he was not ending his career and that he would never leave Olympic and was discussing with club management better terms on his current contract which still has one year to run.

All this is most puzzling to us. Meanwhile, in other news at Olympic,

as well as having signed former Northern

Spirit playmaker Gabriel Mendez. the Club last week snapped up Canberra Cosmos ир Youth international defender Lindsay Wilson. The 20 year old

Lindsay repre-sented Australia's Youth team at Nigeria in the World Youth

championships played earlier this year.

Ante Milicic

Another potential signing is expected to be made that of former Blacktown City and Canter-bury/Marrickville Olympic slender striker, Zlatko Arambasic who for almost the past six years has been playing in Europe, especially in

Another prospect is former Sydney United oustanding striker, Ante Milicic, however the wonderful flank player returned to Europe recently to complete his contract with Dutch first Division side NEC Breda.

Olympic yesterday (Monday), commenced their pre-season training.

OVOV

Brad Maloney, Marconi's high scoring midfielder and skipper, was recently in Rome, but in reality was heading for, would you believe,

Maloney who last month was voted



as the Ericsson National League's 'Player Of The Year', had also taken out his Club's trophy for the

same award. Meanwhile, another Marconi player was recently in Europe, the tough young

sweeper defensive midfielder Buddy Farrah. Buddy had flown to Denmark to try

his luck with a first division giant club, FC Copenhagen.

The strapping young blond defender who had impressed the Danes, arrived back in Sydney late last week. 'Good Oil' will keep you posted on what transpired.

Soccer over the last weekend has once again outdone Rugby

At a Real Estate Auction a



European based Australian International outbid a high profile Rugby League official to buy a luxurious beach front, three bedroom home unit.

The magnificant property based at West Esplanade, Manly was knocked down at lofty \$1.22m. ('Good Oil' is not at liberty to disclose

the identy of the Aussie International).

DAUA

Ms Luke Casserly, also known to her parents as Gracie the hairdresser, has cut out in style to set up her own business.

The vivacious Gracie, married to Northern Spirit's 'crunchie' defender Luke Casserly, recently opened her brand spanking new Unisex Hair Salon in Woodpark, in the outer western suburbs of Sydney.

Husband Luke is expected to sport a new hair style when the Ericsson National League kicks off the first weekend of October as Spirit faces United



INVITATION TO TRIAL

The Wollongong Wolves invite talented and accomplished soccer players born after 1/1/81 to register as a trialist for the 1999/2000 Wolves Colts and Youth teams.

Trials will be held on the first weekend of August, 1999.

To register contact Christian Zelvis at the Wolves Office on

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Manager of Soccer on a mission.

The second 'target' is a tough midfielder and former Inter Milan player, who has been strongly recommended to Marconi by former AC Milan's international great, Angelo ('the Detective') Colombo also a former Marconi player.

Ante Juric, Sydney Olympic's industrious and lanky goalscoring stopper, has recently been over to Croatia for trials with two clubs.

The first club he trailed with was HNK Rijeka and this week has been at Croatia

Zagreb.
Currently studying for his degree in

Australian Features

IT IS BACK

Daniel Giorelando

ydney United came from nowhere last year to take the minor premier-ship as well as the Grand Final, all of this against the odds as many pundits and soccer writers had written them off.

Led by former Socceroo David Mitchell, the team were inspired by his leadership and the players weren't playing for just the money cause simply, the club had none to offer to the players, but more for their coach and their club.

The inclussion of Parramatta Power however began the mass exodus of last years

Coach Mitchell and more than half of the am left once again leaving the club to rebuild.

Without a coach, United went in search of someone who had experience at the top level, someone capable of success.

Enter David Ratcliffe, the man who has been appointed coach of United, the man who will hopefully build up a new squad and turn the team into a success story, which the clubs last coach achieved.

Ratcliffe is no stranger to top-flight soccer. He began his soccer career in Australia in 1978, joining Brisbane City on a transfer from England's Bradford City.

It certainly got me thinking and the more I thought about it the more it appealed to

ABSW: Did you take the job because it was a chance to get back into the NSL or were you missing the week to week action following your 18 month break?

Ratcliffe: I sought of recharged by batteries. I enjoyed the break but I also wanted to

get involved again and obviously the opportunity is there at Sydney United.

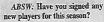
ABSW: What potential can you see at the club for the next season?

Ratcliffe: At the moment that's really too difficult to say because obviously the club has lost a lot of players and they only have six contracted players from last year.

I don't know much about last years youth team but I'll certainly be looking at all those players in training, which we start on the which won't be to far away

There are a lot of lads out there that I have had contact with, players who haven't been given the opportunity to play at other

clubs or players from State League and I'll certainly be looking at them and hoping that three or four of them come through.



Ratcliffe: I have a few people in mind but it's a case of finding the players that we require and they are all in budget.

We have to balance things around and see, what is available out there.

I'm virtually inviting anyone along to training and I'll just take

There is no rush to go signing players left right and centre, I want to have a look first and then I want to make sure that I get the

ARSW: What do you expect from this coming season remembering that the club has lost more than half of the play-

minor premiership possible?

number one but it's a difficult assignment.

thing else would be a bonus, but I am not under any illusions that it won't be a diffi-

until we can get some of these lads settled in and getting them to play the way we want them to play although as long as we can

ABSW: The team is off to China in mid-August. Can you tell us more about the tournament and how serious will you

Obviously Sydney United were invited

Its difficult to assemble a squad so quickly when normally you have to look at signing three or four new players although we have to look at signing 13 to 14.

It's going be a little rushed but it gives me a chance to get away and get the playing together and seeing what the lads are made of.

ABSW: Who are you looking towards to step up and lead the team in this coming sea-

Ratcliffe: I think you have

to look at your more experienced players.

I hope Velimir Kupresak

can continue his great form from last season but who I'll be looking towards stepping up is Ante Moric.

I think he has all the ability in the world but for whatever reason, he

hasn't played to his capability. He has certainly played in the Australian youth team and Olympic games squad but Ante had a season in Canberra, which I don't think he particularly enjoyed and last season he wasn't a regular member.

I think now he is certainly more mature than he was and I think he will be someone we will look forward to at leading us through the season.

ABSW: It was a big surprise for United to finish first and even reach the final. What are you putting in place to ensure that the club achieves the success that they achieved last year?

Ratcliffe: Mitch got the best out of the players out there and in the end, South Melbourne was probably the best side in the league but United won the minor premier-

ip which was a big thing.

What happened last year and what's going to happen this year are two different

It was only three years ago that Brisbane won the league and then the next season they finished 10th or 11th with virtually the same set of players.

Everyone starts of the same and it's those teams that put their best foot forward and work the hardest that are going to achieve glory this season.

ABSW: Will your coaching style be one of all out attack or will you play a more conservative formation and catch the opposition on the break?

Ratcliffe: I'm going play a system that suits the players that I have

When I was at Sydney Olympic I had set ideas on how to play but I had so many good attacking players that we played a very attacking game.

It depends what we have but last season I though United were a very good defensive unit, with the likes of Kupresak and keeper Cruz, they didn't conceded to many and they hit people on the break through the likes of Griffiths and Sterjovski.

At the moment I haven't got any set ideas on how to play but I'd be an idiot to start playing long crosses if I have three midgets up front and vice versa.

ABSW: When will you finalise your

squad for the upcoming season?

Ratcliffe: I think I won't finalise a squad until the start of the season. The situation with other clubs is that all they have to say is I want that player and that player and that's it, they get the two three players that are on their shopping list and that's it, whereas I'm in a totally different situation.

Auckland and ourselves are really starting from scratch. It's like being a new side

ABSW: Have there been any difficulties during your short time at the club?

Ratcliffe: I haven't faced any difficulties whatsoever. Everyone has been great

The club president is great and he has supported me in everything and I'm sure they are going to get everything right and they are going to progress.

But on the park, I have to get everything right, and then the club will progress but playing wise I have to realise that I can't go out and buy the so-called superstars.

ABSW: What is involved in your contract at the club?

Ratcliffe: At the moment it is for just one year. Both parties have agreed to that so I'm happy. I don't think the contract matters too much. If I'm enjoying it I'll stay but if I'm not enjoying it and they don't wont me there then you just don't know.

ABSW: What of South Melbourne's chances in the World Club Championship next year?

Ratcliffe: It really depends who they come up against. If it's Manchester United's best 11 or the Brazilian champions with their best 11, well then it will be difficult.

Just for them to be there is a big achievement for the club and I know that for Angie, he will be very excited about it but they are capable of causing anybody problems.

It is just that step up from playing at the level we play at home and then to step up to the next level which is difficult.



David Ratcliffe has it all ahead of him this season at United.

There are many teams but you only need a couple of key players to get injured at the start of the season and then suddenly your back is against the wall.

I respect all the teams and I expect all the games will be as tough as each other because there is a lot to play for and it was one of the longest seasons in the leagues

Even if you get off to as poor start, there are still chances for teams to pick up but if someone was to ask me who was to win it, I'd say South Melbourne

ABSW: Is the off season too long?

Ratcliffe: Its always been this long and unless they can increase the numb games to spread the season out, well then they are going to face that same problem.

Now they are competing against the sum-mer sports and it is a difficult situation.

The leagues can't afford to have 20 odd teams and it is not capable to have that many as there aren't enough players to go around all those teams unless they cut it down to 12 to 14 teams and have three rounds but it is a problem that has been around and one which has never really been addressed.

ABSW: Finally Dave, is there any chance of seeing you as the next Socceroos coach?

Ratcliffe: I think that's highly unlikely. Previously your name was battered around like everyone else when Venables got the job but I think as coach, locally wise I'd go for Farina but the people in charge will

make their decision. It would be nice if the problem was sorted out because somewhere along the lines whoever it is has got to start moving in the right direction and looking at the players that should he there

It is imperative for soccer to grow in this country that we make it to a World

Cup. It's has happened a number of times in the last game, that we have failed, played in one against Scotland and then was Argentina although probably our best chance ever

Not to take anyway from Iran, they aren't the best side in the world and we had a quality side and even though we hammered them for some 55-60 minutes, we sat there at half-time saying what day does the World Cup start cause it was there for them and in the blink of an eye, it was gone.

The night was sickening but country vise, soccer needs to get that publicity.

ABSW: Well Dave thanks for your time and good luck in the season ahead.



Ratcliffe will be looking towards Ante Moric to step up this year for United

After the move to Australia, Ratcliffe was to become one of the biggest names in Australian soccer playing over 300 NSL games for St. George, Sydney Olympic and Wollongong

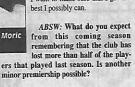
Ratcliffe also put on the green and gold Socceroo jersey 55 times during the 1980:

Ratcliffe has coached over 200 NSL games spanning almost nine seasons including a seven year stint at Wollongong and an 18 month adventure at Sydney Olympic but by far, this is the biggest challenge of his career.

In this exclusive interview, ABSW asked the new United coach what he expected from the season and how he saw the season ahead for United, who will have to start

ABSW: Thanks for your time and congratulations on the new job. When were you told about your appointment and did it come as a bit of a shock?

Ratcliffe: I was approached about two weeks ago, this after I hadn't been coaching for 18 months which was the first real break I've had since 1978, since I first came to Australia either as a player or a coach.



Ratcliffe: Anything is possible. I think every team starts the season hoping for

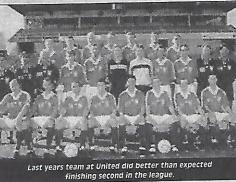
Our aim is to make the playoffs and anycult year because I know it will be.

The early games will be a big test for us improve, I'll be satisfied.

be treating the tour?

Ratcliffe: We go to Shanghai and play one of their best teams as well as one of the best from Japan and a team from Columbia.

because we were minor premiers of Australia and its unfortunate that the team who finished first are not going there, but



ABSW: Who will be this year's danger teams in the NSL?

Ratcliffe: The six who were there last year haven't had too many distractions to them except for ourselves. Parramatta are obviously chasing something and Olympic would be and certainly should be challenging although you don't know with so many of the teams.

A lot depends on whether these teams are going to be missing a lot of their Olympic games players during the season because it is going to be a big year for them as Raul (Blanco) will be taking them away.

Australian Features

Joeys to play Bahrain in cold Canberra

U/17 World Championship Qualifier against Rahrain will be held in Canberra.



The match, to be played at Bruce Stadium on Saturday, August 14, will be a huge event for the nation's capital.

The new facilities at the stadium are amongst some of the best in Australia as the ground has undergone a major facelift in preperation for the Sydney 2000 Olympics.

This will be the first real big socer game at Bruce Stdium which is still yet to be completed.

The capacity of the stadium has been increased to seat around 40,000 people, the minimum needed to hold an Olympic soccer game.

It will also be a test to see how popular soccer in Canberra is considering soccer crowds in Canberra have been starved of success over the past few years.

The Joeys have come off a great run of results and will expect to find a very flat playing surface which will

allow for some open and attacking play.

During the Qualifying tournament which was held in Fiji, the team scored an amazing 55 goals from only eight games, an average of almost seven goals per game.

Matching this was their tough defence which only allowed one goal in for the whole tourrnament, and that was in their first game against the hosts.

All goes well for the Joeys which is the youngest of our national teams, and should they qualify, will go over to New Zealand to contest to the World Cup later rthis

Joe Di Jorio is a player to look out for in the future as the star striker of the team has showed no mercy in front of goals over the eight game qualifying campaign.

Di Iorio scored 10 goals throughout the tournament and will provide a target against Bahrain in next months



Australia is expected to easily get past Bahrain although that is what has been said about the Socceroos over their past few World Cup qualifying campaigns.

The return leg will be played on Friday the 27th of August in Bahrain.

A tribute to Peter Petrovski 1981 - 1999

occar is a cruel game but it also is a reward-ing one. Only an elite few have the skill and talent to make it to the big time.

Soccer is the most popular sport in the world and soccer was the most popular sport in the eyes of the late Peter Petrovski.

Now almost three months on from his tragic death, the memory of Peter Petrovski still lives strong in all those who knew him or those were

At just 18 years of age, Peter had the world at his feet. His soccer career was blossoming by the day and his goalkeeping talent at such a young age wa seen by many as better than Australia's best goalkeeper to date, Mark Bosnich.

However Peter could not wait to reach the big time, he wanted to get to the top of the mountain as soon as possible and this mentality led to the young

During the short years Peter spent with us all, he gave all who knew him so much happiness and joy. He was liked by all and was an attractive and well nered boy who had a dream, that dream was to be the best goalkeeper Australia had ever seen.

Peter was hoping to follow in the footsteps of his which included Argentina's Diego Maradona and Mexican goalkeeper, George Campos but Peter's main goal was to represent Australia at the 2000 Olympics as well as the 2002 World Cup.

Peter was well on his way to making it to the top. He progressed form the St. George Juniors where he won many player of the

year awards.
Peter's first break into the big time came when he represented Blacktown City in the

A move to Sydney United in 1996 allowed Peter to represent one of the National Leagues glamour clubs. From this Peter was selected for the NSW Institute of Sport.

Therefore it came as no surprise to all that knew Peter when represented Australia at the U/16s

level when the team toured France in early 1997, this before going on the represent the National U/17 team, the Joeys

In 1997, Peter was given the chance to fulfil his life long dream of experiencing the pressures and rewards of playing professional soccer as he was offered a one month scholarship, by English Club Ipswich Town, under the Big Brother

Upon his return back home, Peter was signed up by Sydney Olympic, where he became the third string keeper at the club but it was only a

question of when and not if for Peter to become the club's number one.

Peter played for almost two years at the club before his tragic death.

Peter was loved by all that knew him and the turnout of over 1000 peo ple to his funeral to mourn his death showed

that Peter had touched the hearts and minds of

Peter had the world at his feet but the inexperience of youth was his downfall. He felt as though the world was closing in on him but little did he know that this was further from the truth.



In loving memory of

Peter Petrovski 1981-1999

"Known to so many

Peter touched their heart

He will never be forgotten"

unexpected death came as a shock to everyone in the soccer community especially his family.

Despite the pain and the knowledge that life without Peter will never be the same for the Petrovski family, the family is trying to pick themselves up and attempt to carry on in life even though the life a son, a brother and a young boy has been lost

The pain of going through such a tragedy felt by the family has been a long and painful journey so far but they have realised that they must rebuild and carry on in their journey of

The family still to this day has been in denial of losing Peter but they believe along with many others that he now rests in peace in heaven, free from all the troubles that haunted his short time on earth

God needed Peter, he needed another soul to brighten up heaven and spread some of his love and charm and although he will be missed on earth, his legacy and spirit will still remain with all who knew

The Petrovski family would like to thank all the people who attended Peter's funeral in May of this year as well as the closest relations of the family and

> A special thanks from the family is extended to Peter Kotevich who read Peter's eulogy and George Trenkovski for organising the funeral.

> The family would also like to express thanks to all those who had faith

gave him a chance in the sport he loved.

Peter has been taken to a better place, a friendlier place and we all know that he is looking down on us knowing that the small mark that he made on the sport may have been bigger but the mark he left will never be removed or forgotten.

HILLS UNITED SOCCER CLUB

Coaches / Coaches

This ambitious and progressive club invites applications for the following coaching positions for the Year 2000

Cadet League — Division 2

Under 11 and Under 12

Youth League Division 1

Under 13 to Under 16

State League — Division 2

Under 18s, Under 21s and 1st Grade

Correspondence is to be forwarded to

Mr Steve Herron, PO Box 1662

Castle Hill 1765 by COB 18th August 1999

CANTERBURY MARRICKVILLE OLYMPIC SOCCER CLUB



FOR THE following GRAdES First Grade . Under 19s

WE HAVE BEEN READMITTED INTO THE Super Youth League in the Year 2000 and THEREFORE ARE LOOKING FOR COACHES IN

U13s, U14s, U15s and U17s. All Résumé

Applications to be sent to

Canterbury Marrickville Olympic Soccer Club

P.O. Box 976 Marrickville 1475

For further inquiries ring 0411 191 815



Peter Petrovski... many say for his age he was as good if not better than Bosnich.

Australian Features

WA league hots up

Western Australian Premier League Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fremantle City SC	14	10	2	2	40	19	32
Western Knights SC	15	9	3	3	41	21	30
Sorrento SC	15	8	4	3	42	21	30
Bayswater City	15	7	5	3	21	13	26
ECU Joondalup SC	12	8	1	3	34	13	25
Inglewood Falcons SC	15	6	3	6	22	24	21
Floreat Athena SC	14	5	2	7	30	29	17
Ashfield-Bunbury SC	15	5	2	8	20	42	17
Perth Soccer Club	14	4	3	7	15	21	15
Stirling Lions SC	14	4	2	8	24	38	14
Cockburn City SC	14	2	4	8	20	37	10
Kingsway Olympic SC	15	1	3	11	14	45	6



MISST COAST

Premier Results

Sorrento 4 v Stirling Lions 2 Floreat 0 v Bayswater 1 Western Knights 3 v Kingsway Olympic 2 Ingelburn 2 v Cockburn 5 Perth 1 v Ashfield/Bunbury 2

Leaders stumble

South Australian Premier League Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cumblerland United	18	11	3	4	32	25	36
Raiders	18	11	2	5	32	20	35
Elizabeth City	18	9	3	6	33	. 28	30
White City Warriors	18	9	3	6	31	27	30
Croydon	18	8	5	5	44	27	29
Campbelltown City	18	8	4	6	40	31	28
Port Adelaide Lion	18	8	4	6	33	29	28
Adelaide Blue Eagles	18	7	5	6	29	23	26
West Torrens Birkall	18	8	2	8	32	37	26
Para Hills Knights	18	4	5	9	24	36	17
Modbury	18	5	1	12	32	45	16
Olympians	18	0	3	15	20	54	3
							-

Premier Results

Adelaide Eagles 3 v Elizabeth City 0 Olympians 0 v Campbelltown City 3 Weest Torens 3 v Modbury 1 White City 0 v Port Adelaide 1 Para Hills 0 v Raiders 1 Croydon 3 v Cumberland United 1



000

quaint irony about the admission of Parramatta Power to the NSL. In 1880 at the Kings School (a rugby bastion even then) on a site very close to where Parramatta Stadium is located today, the first official game of soccer was played in Australia.

Not long after, the Granville club based at the Clyde Industries works was formed

In its first 40 to 50 years it was one of Sydney's more prominent soccer clubs. After that it survived on in an ever diminishing form until folding sometime in the 1980s.

In its latter years its only claim to fame was that it was Australia's oldest surviving soccer club of some note.

The Granville Junior Association (1908), a separate body that still survives today's in robust health though not as old as the former Granville club that spawned it, is probably Sydney's and possibly Australia's oldest junior/amateur soccer body.

As you can see the Parramatta area and especially the old established suburbs nearby Granville Auburn, Lidcombe, Merrylands etc have a very long and historic association with soccer.

If by chance the rugby league backed Power NSL club succeeds in giving soccer a new lease of life in the very place where it all began in Australia almost 120 years ago who could have thought it even remotely possible to turn out this way.

R. Melow.

With the extraordinary success of the Womens World Cup both on and off the field for the USA one can only speculate what will come out of this. Despite any claims to the century most things that happen in the US are

driven by the opportunity (perceived or real) to make money.

For the first time ever mainstream America has fully participated in a major international football tournament played in the US and won by the US team.

But this is only the Women's World Cup but unlike USA '94 (the real thing) where the US men team was nothing but a small player, and mainstream America treated the whole event with nothing more than passing interest if that.

The powers that be in the US have now had first hand experience at how, SOCC-ERR (as they call it) is on its own as the ultimate international sport when it comes to generating money and public interest.

Of course it could be that the success of the US Womens World Cup team could just be a passing fad much like USA 94 was. However, there are certain indications this

As is well known anything the US decides to get seriously involved in ultimately means they and or their agents take control of the governing body or organisation

I wonder how long it would be before FIFA becomes the Federation of International Socc-err Associations.

As for American commentators on socces (ESPN/FOXTEL) etc nothing is more sickening to hear them use basketball or baseball termonology such as assists, shootouts etc.

If by chance the Americans now suddenly embrace real football and Amewricanise the game fast food style "in the process then this will be the death of football as we know it, mark my

R. Melov. Bondi. NSW.

After seeing what happened to Simon Collosimo on Sunday at Stadium Australia, I will, take back what I said about our overseas based players and

Without trying to sound like a hypocrite, why should the European club's release players to play in so-called friendly or exhibition matches, if they might end up like Simon Collosimo has, with no guarantee that he will be the same player ever again in future.

What made it worse is the fact that our referee's were gutless to penalise myone, as if they (Manchester United players) where untouchable or

Under those conditions and without any real long term compensation, I wouldn't release any expensive star player for exhibition games either, if I was the boss or owner of a European club.

Let the promoters pay out full insurance cover, for all the players as they make the profits from such ventures, not their clubs.

Dominic Scullino. Nerang. Qld.

I have to agree with Paul Wade's answer to the Four Diegos Questions about a 17 team, NSL comp for next season being to many.

Let's just say that Soccer Australia has set up a criteria for the following season to be met, for inclusion in the 2000 to 2001 season, with all club's signing the necessary documents accordingly, so there is no favouritism for

As we have a proper national competition, not a Clayton's one, like the other football codes have, with the majority of their team's stacked in one city, there should be very little latitude given to the regional team's if they can't perform year in and year out.

While we don't want all the team's playing out of Sydney and

Melbourne, plus one from Perth and one from Auckland, we also don't

want the same wooden spoon winner every year either.

Obviously one of the crucial areas in that criteria apart from finances and quality Stadium's, will be accurate crowd figures at home games.

As don't know what the two new teams's home crowd figures will be just yet, setting the bar to high (8 to 10,000 minimum) is a waste of time.

However a bare minimum number should be a 5,000 home average over the full season. If the two new teams's entering can do as good as Perth Glory and the Northern Spirit has, then we will have four major success

stories with home crowd averages well above 10,000 per game. All that is needed then is eight more teams to join them, to give the competition credibility as a major football code in this country.

If the top four can average 15,000 per week and the next eight about 7,000 then the overall average is almost 10,000, which equal to Rugby League's NRL comp. that is what Soccer Australia should be aiming for the following season

In other world's three teams's will have to go for certain, with a possible five teams, if a couple more good replacements are found as well. For one-thing is absolutely certain, there is no way that all 17 teams will

average about 5,000 at all their home games next season. At least five will fall short without any doubt, and another five or six will struggle for sure, but not Marconi or Sydney Olympic.

The inclusion of Parramatta Power and to a lesser extent the Auckland Kings will boost their home crowd averages even more, as Northern Spirit, has already done for them, last season.

Lets just hope that Soccer Australia officials have the nerve or out's to implement such a strict criteria without fear or favour or any court action or legal hassles, to reduce the comp back to 14 maximum again, or even 12 if necessary.

The future credibility of the national competition depends on tough decisions being made, for the good of the game in general, not for those, with there own vested

Only time will tell if David Hills vision on the domestic scene will come true, now that he is gone. If it goes, a lot of the credit

should go to David, as he got the ball rolling with the hard decision's made when he was in power, despite his failures at the international level of the game, which brought him undone.

> Dominic Sculli Nerang. Qld.







ustralian Features



T's time to sit back and relax, and share a Soft Sombrero Moment with the Four Diegos guest this week - one of the greatest players that the

the highest profile personalities ever to grace the fields of the Ericsson Cup. Please a big Four Diegos welcome to New Zealand legend and



iegos: "You, along with many high profile Aussie soccer legends. like Eddie Krncevic, Robbie Slater and David Mitchell, have returned home after highly successful stints in the cut and thrust of European Football.

"In talking to the Aussie boys they've confessed to, at times, longing for the intense life and death soccer culture that exists overseas. How have you felt in this regard?'

Rufer: "Its probably worse for me because at least in Australia, through SBS TV. Australians have been able to see a lot of football from overseas for many years. This has not been the case for many New Zealanders.

"There are various soccer magazines throughout Australia that satisfy many of the young fans by promoting the game in Australia.

"Throw in the successful Australian

youth development programs that produce so talented young players and the fact that the Aussies regularly compete in the Olympic games, Youth and Under 17 World Cups and you can clearly see the difference between the two countries. The last generation here in New Zealand unfortunately has gone backwards

"In the 1982 World cup we were fortunate enough to beat Australia but since then we, as a soccerplaying nation, have stood still.

"There has, up until this year, been no development and no national league. Having said that, in the coming year, I believe things are really going to happen. New Zealand is hosting the World Under 17 Youth Championships.

There is a new board at Soccer New Zealand who is very passionate about the game and very skilled on the business side

The Four Diegos' are radio celebrities and soccer scribes on Melbourne's Stereo 97.4 FM Saturday 10 am - 12 midday. E-Mail 'The Diegos' on FourDiegos@bigpond.com

of things. There is a new full time soccer academy for boys and girls from 17 to 21 years of age in Auckland.

The ultimate development in my mind though, is that the Auckland Football Kings will be playing in the Ericsson cup next season, providing our young kids with a clear pathway to professional foot-

"I also shouldn't forget that our nation-

Oceania region has ever produced. His highly successful time in European Football with German club, Werder Bremen and selection as the Oceania Player of the Century, make him one of

Auckland Football Kings player/manager, Wynton Rufer.



al team is competing in the Confederation's cup. So as you can see, things are definitely looking up."

Diegos: "Why did you have to bring up the Confederations cup? We specifically told you not to bring up the Confederations cup.

Rufer: "That's right Diegos, wasn't that the last time that New Zealand beat Australia? Seriously though, I thought it

was a shame that Australia didn't qualify because now we have to take on USA, Brazil and Germany and to be realistic, we have to acknowledge that there might be a chance that we may get a hammering."

Diegos: "Australia is regarded as a fine exporter of soccer talent with some of our players currently playing in the elite competitions in the world. This reputation

has been built over time with Eddie Krncevic and Craig Johnston being our first successful exports.

"New Zealand, on the other hand, has never been known as a recruiting ground for world clubs, which makes your playing achievements even the more remarkable. What led to your European opportunity?"

Rufer: "Probably a similar story to Frank Farina and David Mitchell. I

remember playing against David in Fiji in a Youth tournament between Australia and New Zealand a long time ago. "We were just young players who dreamed of going to Europe. I was lucky enough to go on trial overseas and get picked up by a club.

'It was then very similar to the boys today who go over to England or other parts of Europe endeavoring to clinch a contract.

"Some of the Australian players who I'm trying to sign up for the Kings at the moment, are all making their first option overseas."

Diegos: "You have been appointed coach of the Auckland Football Kings for their inaugural year in the Ericsson Cup next season.

the Kings will be like 'sheep to the slaughter', pardon the pun, when comup against hardened Aussie Ericsson Cup outfits. Will your team be a competitive one?

Rufer: "That's a fair comment because to be honest, the results over the past 5 or 10 years against Australia have not been good.

"My job though, is to see that the team is competitive and I'm quietly confident that we will put up a good showing.

"The whole country is buzzing and we know how the crowd will get behind us if we have some success against Australian opposi-

"The build up to that first game in October will be unbelievable. I will be surprised if we don't have a sell out crowd of 24,000 at North Harbour Stadium here in Auckland for the opener. "If we can get a win in that first game and build on that, I believe we will definitely be a force to be reckoned with "

Diegos: "Can you give us an insight into the make up of the Auckland Kings? Will it be a team of young enthusiastic, mountain climbing Kiwis or will it be a deadly mix of Aussies and Kiwis?"

Rufer: "We have got to work within the budget available. Our budget could be described as 'reasonable' in comparison to

Christian Vieri, and Brazilian,

"Was this a display of the close camaraderie developed between yourself and Christian or were you merely trying to strangle some of the \$75 million world

record transfer fee out of

Rufer: "Unfortunately he didn't have his long pants on that night because if he did I would've spent all my time feeling into his pockets to try and find some of that transfer fee. The whole thing was all very friendly.

"I know Leonardo quite well from the time I played in Japan

so catching up with him was great. The occasion was a special one. Such games don't come round everyday so it was good to give such world superstars a big hug."

Diegos: "Thanks Wynton. All the best for the new season but forgive us for not wishing you too much luck. You might be a good bloke but you're still a Kiwi mate. Adios Amigo."

Rufer: "Thanks Diegos. We hope that we can give you Aussies a recurring 'Confederations cup nightmare' every week. Adios Amigos.

"I thought it was a shame that Australia didn't qualify because now we have to take on USA. Brazil and Germany and to be realistic, we have to acknowledge that there might be a chance that we may get a hammering."

the budgets of other Ericsson cup clubs.

"We've currently signed up about half

our squad. Of our final 20 players we will have a number of 'All Whites', a few

Australians and a few foreign players. It

will be quite a mixture but I believe an

Diegos: "You recently played and

scored for the FIFA All Stars versus The

Socceroos at the official opening of

"In the pre-game world team photo,

The Diegos noticed that you had your arms around the neck of Italian star,

effective one."

Stadium Australia.



team. Rufer last played in Australia for the World All Stars scoring against Australia last month.

NSW SUPER LEAGUE

PARRAMATTA WIN THRILLER TO GO THROUGH TO GRAND FINAL

The Parramatta Eagles will play the Blacktown City Demons in the 1999 Super League Grand Final on Sunday 1 August at Marconi Stadium, after defeating the Bonnyrigg White Eagles 3-2 in extra time at the Gabbie Stadium.

In an amazing game Parramatta took the lead on 24 minutes when Ballamobou Conde drove the ball home from the edge of the penalty area.

That lead lasted just thirteen minutes though when Ray Younis collected a Bobby Dragas header from a corner, and blasted home.

In the first half Bonnyrigg lost both Javier Mancino and James Warburton with injuries, and another injury to goalkeeper Mladen Kos saw them use all three substitutes in the first 50 minutes.

Mark Racker put a delightful ball over for Ben Green to bullet a header home to make it 2-1 for the White Eagles on 72 minutes, but then Racker was carried off on a stretcher with what looked a serious ankle injury.

The ten men held on until two minutes before the end, when Grant Bard nipped in front of substitute goalkeeper Sasha Bozic to made it 2-2.

Even worse for Bonnyrigg was that Bobby Dragas was then sent-off right on the stroke of full-time, leaving his team to play the game out with nine men.

Those nine men held on in the first period of extra time, but finally, in the 110th minute of the game, Bard scored his second and his side's third, to finish the game on the 'Golden Goals' rule.

In the Under 21's Macarthur Rams will play the Bonnyrigg White Eagles, who came through an amazing game with Parramatta with a 7-4 victory.

It was much closer in the under 18's, Macarthur edging out Blacktown on penalties to face Parramatta Eagles with a 10:30am start

SUPER LEAGUE PRELIMINARY FINAL

FIRST GRADE: Parramatta Eagles 3 (B Conde 24m, G Barde 88/110m) bt Bonnyrigg White Eagles 2 (R Younis 37m, B Green 72m) (Extra Time).

U/21: Bonnyrigg White Eagles 7 bt Parramatta Eagles 4.

U/18: Macarthur Rams 1 drew Blacktown City 1 (Macarthur Rams 4 bt Blacktown City 3 on Penalties).

DIVISION ONE

FIRST GRADE: Illawarra Lions 1 (V Tasevski 88m) bt St George 0, Manly Warringah 2 (A Hunter 68m, D Harding 80m) bt Stammore Hawks 1 (E Briscoe 58m), Bathurst 75 5 (M Rooke 536m, B Gallard 64m, A Collins 87m, G Wallace 89m) bt Rockdale City 3 (P Apolevski 43m, S Najdoski 59/84), Illawarra Lions 2 (A Krstevski 10m, V Tasevski 27m) bt Aubum United 1 (H Bayhan 49m), Dulwich Hill 2 (I De Jesus 49m, M Sultan 63m) bt Rockdale City 1 (S Najdoski 6m), Moorebank Sports 2 (A Maiorca 80m, J Corrente 82m) bt Hurstville City 0, Bathurst 75 1 (T Clancy 90m) bt Penrith Panthers 1 (R Casserly 15m Pen), Manly Warringah 1 (K Foster 32m) drew St George 1 (S Janic 16m).

U/21: Stanmore Hawks 2 drew Bathurst '75 2, Dulwich Hill 2 bt Auburn United 1, St George 2 drew AC United 2, Manly Warringah 4 bt Stanmore Hawks 1, Auburn United 3 bt Illawarra Lions 0, Rockdale City 9 bt Dulwich Hill 0, Moorebank Sports 1 bt Hurstville City 0, Penrith Panthers 2 bt Bathurst '75 0, Manly Warringah 1 bt St George 0.

U/18: Stanmore Hawks 2 bt Bathurst '75 0, Dulwich Hill 2 bt Auburn United 1, AC United 4 bt St George 0, Stanmore Hawks 1 bt Manly Warringah 0, Illawarra Lions 3 bt Auburn United 2, Rockdale City 3 bt Dulwich Hill 1, Moorebank Sports 4 bt Hurstville City 0, Bathurst '75 2 bt Penrith Panthers 1, Manly Warringah 2 bt St George 1.

DIVISION TWO

FIRST GRADE: Mt Pritchard 2 bt Greystanes 0, Arncliffe Scots 1 bt Hurstville ZSC 0, Belmore Hercules 2 bt Hajduk Wanderers 1, Fraser Park 6 bt Hills United 2, Sydney University 5 bt Mt Druitt Town 1, University of NSW 1 drew Sydney District 1.

U/21: Greystanes 2 bt Mt Pritchard 0, Hurstville ZSC 4 bt Amcliffe Scots 0, Hajduk Wanderers 13 bt Belmore Hercules 0, Fraser Park 3 bt Hills United 1, Mt Druitt Town 1 drew Sydney University 1, Sydney District 4 bt University of NSW 0.

U/18: Mt Pritchard 3 bt Greystanes 1, Hurstville ZSC 2 bt Arneliffe Scots 2, Belmore Hercules 1 drew Hajduk Wanderers 1, Hills United 3 bt Fraser Park 0, Mt Druitt Town 2 bt Sydney University 0, University of NSW 3 bt Sydney District 2.

DIVISION THREE

FIRST GRADE: Western Sydney Lions 6 bt Parramatta City 0, Camden Tigers 2 bt Gladesville United 0, Hakoah 3 bt Trasandinos 2, Colo Colo 11 bt Maroubra United 0, The Wanderers 3 bt Prospect United 1, White City 3 bt Liverpool City 1.

SECOND GRADE: Western Sydney Lions 9 bt Parramatta City 0, Camden Tigers 7 bt Gladesville United 0, Hakoah 3 bt Trasandinos 1, Maroubra United 1 bt Colo Colo 0, The Wanderers 2 bt Prospect United 0, White City 4 bt Liverpool

DIVISION FOUR

FIRST GRADE: Nepean District 4 bt Prairiewood United 3, Springwood 2 bt CSI Schofields 0, Hawkesbury City 2 bt Auburn Star 1, Balmain 1 bt White Valley 0, Granville Greenisland 7 bt Holy Cross Ryde 1, Eastern Creek Pioneers 7 bt Sydney Crescent Star 1, United Eagles 2 bt Marrickville 0.

SECOND GRADE: Springwood 0 drew CSI Schofields 0, Hawkesbury City 4 bt Auburn Star 2, White Valley 1 bt Balmain 0, Holy Cross Ryde 5 bt Granville Greenisland 2, Eastern Creek Pioneers 2 bt Sydney Crescent Star 1, United Eagles 2 bt Marrickville 0.

DIVISION FIVE

FIRST GRADE: Sydney TUSC vs UTS P/P, Homentmen 4 drew Bossy 4, AVA United 5 bt Earlwood Hermes 1, Kosciusko 3 bt Lithgow Workmen 2, Liverpool Olympic 6 bt Sydney United Eagles 3, Kellyville Kolts 10 bt Macquarie Sports 1.

SECOND GRADE: Sydney TUSC 3 bt UTS 0, Bossy 1 bt Homenetmen 0, Earlwood Hermes 1 bt AVA United 0, Lithgow Workmen 1 drew Kosciusko 1, Sydney United Kings 2 bt Liverpool Olympic 1, Kellyville Kolts 4 bt Macquarie Sports 3.

WOMENS SUPER LEAGUE

FIRST GRADE: NNSW ITC /Academy 2 bt Central Coast 0, NNSW ITC/Academy 4 bt Sutherland Sharks 9, Marconi Fairfield 6 bt Nepean Panthers 1, Central Coast 2 bt Gladesville Ravens 1, Shoalhaven Assoc 5 bt Sydney United 1, NSW INST/Academy 5 bt UWS Macarthur Rams 0.

U/21: Sydney United 2 bt Sutherland Sharks 0, NNSW ITC /Academy 5 bt Central Coast 0, NNSW ITC/Academy 3 bt Sutherland Sharks 0, Marconi Fairfield 5 bt Nepean Panthers 1, Gladesville Ravens 3 bt Central Coast 0, Sydney United 6 bt Shoalhaven Assoc 0, NSW INST/Academy 0 drew UWS Macarthur Rams 0.

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE

FIRST GRADE: Eastern Suburbs 2 bt Manly Warringah 1, Wollongong Wolves 2 bt Gladesville Hornsby Koalas 0, Bathurst City 14 bt Bankstown United 0, St George Association 4 bt Roselands 1.

U/19: Manly Warringah 7 bt Eastern Suburbs 2, Wollongong Wolves 4 bt Gladesville Hornsby Koalas 1, Bathurst City 6 bt Bankstown United 1, St George Association 3 drew Roselands 3.

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE

U/13: Blacktown City 2 bt Leichhardt Tigers 1, Sydney Olympic 2 bt Gladesville Hornsby 0, Parramatta Eagles 0 drew Southern Branch 0, Sydney United 1 bt Central Coast 0, Newcastle Breakers 1 bt Macarthur Rams 0, Wollongong Wolves 2 bt Southern Districts 1, Eastern Suburbs 1 drew Manly Warringah 1, Marconi Fairfield 1 drew Sutherland Sharks 1, Manly Warringah 2 drew Marconi Fairfield 2, Parramatta Eagles 3 bt Central Coast 0, Newcastle Breakers 0 drew Leichhardt Tigers 0.

U/14: Blacktown City 1 bt Leichhardt Tigers 0, Sydney Olympic 2 bt Gladesville Hornsby 0, Parramatta Eagles 3 drew Southern Branch 3, Sydney United 4 bt Central Coast 1, Macarthur Rams 2 bt Newcastle Breakers 1, Wollongong Wolves drew Southern Districts 1, Manly Warringah 2 bt Eastern Suburbs 1, Marconi Fairfield 2 drew Sutherland Sharks 2, Manly Warringah 2 bt Marconi Fairfield 1, Parramatta Eagles 2 bt Central Coast 1, Leichhardt Tigers 3 bt Newcastle Breakers 2.

U/15: Blacktown City 1 bt Leichhardt Tigers 0, Gladesville Hornsby 3 drew Sydney Olympic 3, Southern Branch 2 bt Parramatta Eagles 0, Sydney United 2 bt Central Coast 0, Macarthur Rams 4 bt Newcastle Breakers 0, Wollongong Wolves 3 bt Southern Districts 2, Eastern Suburbs 2 bt Manly Warringah 0, Marconi Fairfield 1 bt Sutherland Sharks 0, Marconi Fairfield 7 bt Manly Warringah 1, Central Coast 2 bt Parramatta Eagles 0, Newcastle Breakers 5 bt Leichhardt Tigers 0

U/16: Blacktown City 2 bt Leichhardt Tigers 1, Parramatta Eagles 2 bt Southern Branch 0, Central Coast 1 bt Sydney United 0, Newcastle Breakers 2 bt Macarthur Rams 0, Southern Districts 3 bt Wollongong Wolves 2, Eastern Suburbs 2 drew Manly Warringah 2, Marconi Fairfield 3 bt Sutherland Sharks 1, Marconi Fairfield 4 bt Manly Warringah 0, Parramatta Eagles 2 bt Central Coast 0. Newcastle Breakers 6 bt Leichhardt Tigers 1.

DIVISION ONE YOUTH

U/I3: St George 2 bt Canterbury M'Ville 0, Hills United 4 bt Canterbury M'Ville 1, Bankstown Association 10 bt Fairfield Bulls 1, Illawarra Lions 4 bt St George 0, Blacktown Association 1 bt AC United 0, Rockdale City Suns 2 bt Stammore Hawks 1, Penrith Panthers 2 bt Canterbury Association 0, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1 drew Ryde City 1, Illawarra Lions 3 bt AC United 2, Hills United 4 bt Canterbury Assoc, Rockdale City Suns 2 bt Penrith Panthers 0, Fairfield Bulls 2 bt Canterbury Marrickville 1, St George 2 bt Stammore Hawks 0.

U/14: Canterbury M'Ville 0 drew St George 0, Canterbury M'Ville 2 bt Hills United 1, Fairfield Bulls 2 drew Bankstown Association 2, Illawarra Lions 1 drew St George 1, Blacktown Association 2 bt AC United 1, Rockdale City Suns 3 bt Stammore Hawks 0, Canterbury Association 2 bt Penrith Panthers 1, Ryde City 1 bt Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0, AC United 3 bt Illawarra Lions 1, Canterbury Association 0 drew Hills United 0, Penrith Panthers 1 bt Rockdale City Suns 0, Canterbury Marrickville 1 drew Fairfield Bulls 1, St George 2 bt Stammore Hawks 0.

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION

SUPER LEAGUE

GRAND



FINAL

Sunday 1st August

FIRST GRADE

Blacktown City Demons v Parramatta Eagles
Marconi Stadium, 3:00pm

UNDER 21

Macarthur Rams v Bonnyrigg White Eagles
Marconi Stadium, 12:30pm

UNDER 18 Parramatta Eagles v Macarthur Rams
Marconi Stadium, 10:30am

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WITH JANENE MAR IN CANBERRA

OR NORDIC CUP TEAM R OPENS FO

ustralia's U21 Team members will be aiming A for senior selection when they contest next month's prestigious Nordic Cup in Iceland, following the Matildas' disappointing performance

at the recent World Cup.
Significantly, a new National Squad and the next intake of 20 Australian Institute of Sport scholarship athletes will be announced on August 13, five days after the conclusion of the Nordic Cup and thirteen months out from the Olympic Games.

Whether or not there will be any changes is unknown, but after following the progress at the World Cup, the top younger players will be thinking there is now a much greater chance of breaking through.

"My plans of how to approach this tournament have see the need by the clause the seal tournament."

not changed, but the players themselves may perceive that the door has opened a little more than before," said National Assistant Coach and National Youth Coach Chris Tanzey.

Teamwise, the challenge facing the Aussies is a tough one. Australia will field a very young and inexperienced team in Iceland, the World Cup players not deemed

available for selection in two events.

A total of eight Under 21 players competed in the recent World Cup in the USA — an awfully large number to be unavailable when entering such a high quality international tournament. It does however give

the younger players an early chance at the highest level competition.

"The focus here is to give players who have not travelled before with the national team a taste of international football, expose them to that level of soccer," said Tanzey

"Plus all the off-field experience, being away from home, the travel, etc. And out of that, I'd like to get one or two up to that next level. That's what the Youth team's about, not results as such."

"And it's got to be that way, especially with this group. If it was results-based, then we'd be taking the

her eight World Cup players with us. Generally, if a team loses one or two players, then okay. But to lose eight, then the focus has got to be

Tanzey emphasises that the youth team philosophy is to provide a stepping stone to senior National Team selection, and the technical development of players at international level.

He is happy with the players he has despite the lack of experience, and is keen to nurture their talent further We've got some exciting talent there and this is a good opportunity to see if they can reproduce their national league form on the international scene. We'll see how they handle the whole package, the sort of characters they are, and not just their football ability.

The two things have got to go together. This will also

be a learning experience for the staff.

We know they can play well — that's why they've been picked — but now we can see how the players react to the whole package."

This is the first time Australia has been invited to compete in the annual Nordic Cup, widely considered the unofficial world youth tournament. Australia is drawn in Group 1 with Iceland, Sweden, and Norway; whilst Group 2 is comprised of the USA, Germany, Denmark, and Finland.

Almost nothing is known of the opposition at Under 21 level, but all are expected to be of exceptional calibre. The Europeans and Americans play regularly at this age level and have quality opposition at their easy disposal.

The close proximity of the other countries to Iceland would more than suggest that the others would all be fielding their best teams, probably including World Cup

The U21 team assembled in Canberra last Friday with just four days' preparation at the AIS before the team departed today (Tue) morning bound for Reykjavik,

capital city of the European island nation of Iceland.

The tournament is scheduled for 2-8 August with Australia to play one training match against Iceland's senior national team on 30 July.

With such limited time to gel the players into a team unit, the focus will be on Australia's own performance.
"To a certain degree, you can only concentrate on your team only in that time

We'll be looking to be well organised, know our jobs, and keep possession of the ball. This is a must. If you look at the World Cup, those teams that kept possession were the successful teams. Whatever the result, that's the way we're going to go out there. If we don't play possession, even if we get a result, we won't be able to step up.

"If we want to push players to the highest level, then we've got to be confident enough to teach them the right way to play. What players come out of that system is the main thing.

We shouldn't be afraid to make mistakes or we'll never create technical players. We hope to have an organised defence, and when we have the ball, be able to keep possession, express ourselves, and be comfortable onfident on the ball."

"We can't teach them all that in just four days, but we can set the principle, the philosophy behind it. We'll be trying to cause problems for the opposition, try to attack, run at players, and move the ball quickly."

ORDIC CUP TEAM

THE TEAM

The Australian U21 Team to compete in the Nordic Cup in Reykjavik was named by coach Chris Tanzey at the same time as the World Cup Team was selected on 17 May.

Event rules allow a maximum of two overage players within the team, up to 25 years of age, and Australia has taken advantage of this regulation. The age eligible National Squad players who missed selection for the World Cup are all included in the Nordic Cup Team, five in all.

Making their first national selection are Michelle Carney, Alicia Cavanagh, Anna Ruotolo, and Kim Channing.

AUSTRALIAN U21 NORDIC CUP TEAM 1999

Player	Pos	State	DOB
Rachael ALLEY	D	NNSW	15/11/82
Louisa BISBY	D	VIC	01/06/79
Megan BOND	M	QLD	11/12/80
Joanne BUTLAND	GK	QLD/AIS	24/11/78
Michelle CARNEY	F	NSW	30/12/82
Alicia CAVANAGH	M	NSW	18/07/80
Kim CHANNING	F	ACT	08/02/82
Jessica HALFPENNY	P	SA	13/05/81
Cassandra KBLL	GK.	NSW	08/08/80
Georgette LEAKE	D	QLD	22/01/76
Tracie McGOVERN	D	NNSW	21/04/78
Kate McSHEA	M	QLD	13/04/83
Kimberley MORRIS	D	SA	07/10/81
Anna RUOTOLO	M	SA	31/08/81
Kim REVELL	M	QLD/AIS	16/03/75
Danielle SMALL	M	NNSW/USA	07/02/79
Natalie THOMAS	F	SA/AIS	03/05/78

Officials:

Chris TANZEY Wendy CARTER Sharon DEWAR David BERG Margaret FULHAM National Youth Coach Aser National Youth Coach Team Manager Physiotherapist Head of Delegation

THE DRAW

Australia kicks off its preparation with a 'friendly' against host Iceland's senior National Team on 30 July, 4.00pm at Valbjarnarvollur.

2 August Iceland v Norway AUSTRALIA v Sweden 4.30pm 2.30pm USA v Finland Germany v Denmark 4.30pm

4 August Akranesvollur Norway v Sweden 2.30pm Akranesvollur Iceland v AUSTRALIA 4.30pm Borgarnesvollur 2.30pm Finland v Denmark USA v Germany 4.30pm Borgarnesvollur

> 2.30pm 2.30pm

> 4.30pm

4.30om.

3.00pm

6 August Germany v Finland Denmark v USA AUSTRALIA v Norway Sweden v Iceland

8 August 10:30am 7th Place Playoff 10.30am 5th Place Playoff 12.30pm 3rd Place Playoff

Kopavogsvollur Fiolnisvollur Kopavogsvollur

Hlidarendi

Hlidarendi

Stjornuvollui

Stiormyollur

KR-vollur Kaplakrikavollur Kaplakrikavollur Laugardalsvollur (national stadium)

AUSSIE-FAX

Good luck messages may be forwarded to the team's hotel as follows -

Attn - Sharon Dewar, Manager Australian U21 Soccer Team Hotel Loftleidir, Reykjavik Fax: 0015-354-505.0905

NB - Iceland is 10 hours behind AEST.

WALSH'S

W striker Sarah Walsh has been a late withdrawal from Australia's Nordic Cup Team. The dynamic 16-year-old will undergo reconstruction surgery on the knee she injured a fortnight ago.

The news has come as a tragic blow for Walsh who was unavailable for selection for last October's Youth Team tour to Holland after reconstruction on her other knee.

"It's very sad and disappointing, especially for her," said coach Chris Tanzey.

"But we didn't forget her last time and we won't again."

Standby forward Kim Channing, age 17 from the ACT, received the call-up as Walsh's replacement. Channing has an uncanny ability to score sensational goals from any distance, and Tanzey has witnessed her score a hattrick in each of her last two club matches since knowing of her selection.

SCHOOLGIRLS IN CANBERRA

he Australian Schoolgirls Championships kick off this weekend at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra.

All States except Tasmania and South Australia will contest the event commencing Sunday 1 August and concluding Saturday 7 August

The Australian Schoolgirls Team will be selected from these Championships for the European Tour in November/December this year.

VICTORIAN LEAGUES





CRAZY JOHN'S STATE LEAGUE

DIVISION 1 - ROUND 19

Yarraville Glory 2 - Werribee City 0 Richmond 0 - Westgate 2 Oakleigh 4 - Doncaster Rovers I Northcote City 5 - Kingston City 0 North Geelong Warriors 3 - Western Suburbs 2 Lalor United 2 - Heidelberg United 1 Melbourne City 0 - Springvale City 4

	r	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oakleigh	19	12	4	3	40	19	40
Heidelberg United	19	12	4	3	43	24	40
Lalor United	19	11	4	4.	39	24	37
Westgate	19	11	2	6	34	26	35
Western Suburbs	19	8	4	7	31	27	28
Doncaster Rovers	19	7	5	7	36	32	26
Yarraville Glory	19	7	5	7	33	31	- 26
Springvale City	19	7	3	9	26	28	24
Richmond	19	6	6	7	26	31	24
Nth Geelong Warriors	19	5	8	6	29	29	23
Northcote City	19	6	2	11	41	43	20
Kingston City	19	5	3	11	21	44	18
Melbourne City	19	5	2	12	25	42	17
Werribee City	19	3	4	12	19	43	13

ROUND 20 FIXTURES

Sunday August 1 Northcote City v Melbourne City Springvale City v Lalor United Western Suburbs v Oakleigh Doncaster Rovers v Richmond Westpate v Yarraville Glory Kingston City v Werribee City Heidelberg United v North Geelong Warriors

DIVISION 2 - ROUND 19

Cranbourne Comets 2 - Diamond Valley United 2 Ringwood City 1 - Altona City 2 Knox City 2 - Frankston Strikers 0 East Richmond 1 - Old Scotch Waverley 1 Thomastown/Regent 2 - Geelong 0 Frankston Pines 4 - Croydon City Arrows 0 Essendon 4 - Satellite City Rovers 1 P W D L F A Pts

Essendon	19	13	6	0	52	13	45
Frankston Pines	18	11	5	2	48	21	38
Geelong	19	9	5	5	34	34	32
Knox City	19	9	4	6	29	19	31
East Richmond	19	7	7	5	26	26	28
Old Scotch Waverley	18	7	6	5	19	22	27
Altona City	19	8	3	8	19	30	27
Cranbourne Comets	19	6	7	6	33	30	25
Frankston Strikers	19	6	4	9	32	29	22
Ringwood City	19	5	5	9	24	36	20
Satellite City Rovers	19	5	5	9	19	33	20
Thomastown/Regent	19	5	4	10	30	37	19
Diamond Valley United	19	3	6	10	20	37	15
Croydon City Arrows	19	2	5	12	18	35	11
A CHARLES OF THE PARTY OF THE P							

ROUND 20 FIXTURES Saturday July 31 East Richmond v Essendon

Satellite City Rovers v Frankston Pines Croydon City Arrows v Thomastown/Regent Geelong v Knox City Frankston Strikers v Ringwood City Altona City v Cranbourne Comets Old Scotch Waverley v Diamond Valley United

DIVISION 3 - ROUND 19

Keilor Park 1 - South Wantirna 2 Fitzroy City 2 - Williamstown 0 dmeadows City 1 - South Springvale 1 Banyule City 0 - Pascoe Vale 0 Bell Park 0 - Moreland City I Mooroolbark 1 - Stonnington City 1 North Coburg United 1 - Laverton Park 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Stonnington City	19	12	5	2	45	24	41
Fitzroy City	19	10	7	2	39	21	37
South Wantirna	19	11	4	4	35	17	37
South Springvale	19	9	9	1	35	13	36
North Coburg United	19	10	3	6	35	28	33

THE CASE AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR	CONTRACTOR OF	5567,57010	DIRECTOR D	distants	OR STREET	SAUSSAUS	interestate
Laverton Park	19	8	7	4	33	25	31
Moreland City	19	9	4	6	32	24	31
Pascoe Vale	19	6	4	9	28	37	22
Williamstown	19	5	5	9	29	38	20
Mooroolbark	19	5	5	9	19	33	20
Keilor Park	19	6	1	12	23	33	19
Bell Park	19	3	6	10	22	39	15
Broadmeadows City	18	3	4	11	22	38	13
Banyule City	18	0	6	12	15	42	6

ROUND 20 FIXTURES

Saturday July 31 Banyule City v North Coburg United Laverton Park v Mooroolbark Stonnington City v Bell Park Moreland City v Broadmeadows City South Springvale v Fitzroy City Williamstown v Keilor Park Pascoe Vale v South Wantima

DIVISION 4 - ROUND 19

Melton 1 - Nunawading City 1 Corio 1 - Sandringham City 1 Keysborough 0 - Seaford United 1 Croxton Park 1 - Lalor 2 Geelong Rangers 1 - Lyndale United 2 Langwarrin 4 - Clifton Hill United 0 Chelsea 2 - Sunbury United 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Langwarrin	19	17	1	1	67	16	52
Sandringham City	19	12	3	4	59	33	39
Seaford United	19	11	3	5	40	32	36
Lyndale United	18	10	4	4	38	26	34
Melton	19	8	5	6	31	28	29
Croxton Park	19	6	10	3	37	28	28
Sunbury United	19	8	3	8	35	33	27
Geelong Rangers	19	6	4	9	28	38	22
Ćorio	19	5	5	9	26	42	20
Lalor	18	5	4	9	28	40	19
Chelsea	19	4	5	10	28	46	17
Clifton Hill United	19	5	2	12	27	51	17
Keysborough	19	4	4	11	34	35	16
Nunawading City	19	3	3	13	22	52	12

ROUND 20 FIXTURES

Saturday July 31 Croxton Park v Chelsea Sunbury United v Langwarrin Clifton Hill United v Geelong Rangers Lyndale United v Keysborough Seaford United v Corio Sandringham City v Melton Lalor v Nunawading City



WOMEN'S LEAGUES

PREMIER DIVISION - ROUND 14

Cranbourne A 5 - Essendon A 0 Endeavour United 0 - Manningham 5 Westvale v Heidelberg United - no result received Keilor Park - bye South Melbourne - bye

Table - Cranbourne A 30, Manningham 27, Keilor Park 22, Westvale 14, South Melbourne 13, Essendon A 11, Heidelberg United 0, Endeavour United 0.

ROUND 15 FIXTURES

Sunday August 1 South Melbourne v Westvale Heidelberg United v Endeavour United Keilor Park v Cranbourne A Essendon A - bye Manningham - bye

DIVISION 1 - ROUND 14

Cranbourne B 3 - Endeavour Hills 0 Ballarat Strikers v Knox County - no result received Waverley Taipans v Seaford United - no result received Newborough/Yallourn - bye
Yarraville Glory - bye
Table - Cranbourne B 31, Newborough/Yallourn 19,
Yarraville Glory 17, Knox County 14, Endeavour Hills

12, Seaford United 11, Waverley Taipans 7, Ballarat Strikers 3.

ROUND 15 FIXTURES

Sunday August 1 Yarraville Glory v Waverley Taipans Newborough/Yalloura v Ballarat Strikers Knox County v Cranbourne B

Endeavour Hills - bye Seaford United - bye

DIVISION 2 NORTH-WEST -ROUND 14

Brunswick City 4 - Essendon B 0 Brimbank v Fairfield Falcons A - no result received Brimoank v Farjeela Faccors A - no result received
Ballarac City 4 - Calder Strikers 0
Mill Park v Laverton Park - no result received
Thornbury United 3 - Eltham North 3
Table - Ballarat City 35, Laverton Park 28,
Brunswick City 28, Brimbank 27, Eltham North 25,
Calder Strikers 20, Fairfield Falcons A 14, Essendon B

9, Mill Park 7, Thombury United 1.

ROUND 15 FIXTURES

Sunday August 1 Eltham North v Mill Park

Essendon B v Thornbury United Laverton Park v Ballarat City Calder Strikers v Brimbank Fairfield Falcons A v Brunswick City

DIVISION 2 SOUTH-EAST -ROUND 14

Carringbush 5 - Monbulk 0 Bentleigh Greens 10 - South Wantirna 0 Frankston Pines 1 - Gippsland Falcons 3 Monash University - bye Monbulk - bye

Table - Bentleigh Greens 33, Carringbush 25, Gippsland Falcons 21, Springvale City 20, Monash University 9, South Wantirna 8, Monbulk 7, Frankston

ROUND 15 FIXTURES

Sunday August 1 Monash University v Frankston Pines Springvale City v Bentleigh Greens South Wantirna v Carringbush Gippsland Falcons - bye Monbulk - bye

DIVISION 3 NORTH-WEST ROUND 14

Deakin University v Maribyrnong United - no result

received
Pascoe Vale v Melton - no result received
La Trobe University 2 - Fairfield Falcons B 3 Diamond Valley United 0 - North Reservoir 4
Melbourne Raiders - bye

Table - North Reservoir 36, Melton 28, Melbourne Raiders 24, Fairfield Falcons B 19, Pascoe Vale 15, La Trobe University 14, Deakin University 10, Diamond Valley United 6, Maribymong United 2.

ROUND 15 FIXTURES

Sunday August 1 North Reservoir v Fairfield Falcons B Maribyrnong United v Diamond Valley United La Trobe University v Pascoe Vale Melbourne Raiders v Deakin University Melton - bye

DIVISION 3 SOUTH-EAST -ROUND 10

East Bentleigh 2 - Crystal United 2 Box Hill Inter 4 - Melbourne University 1
Monash Gryphon 0 - Sandringham City 0
Hampton Park - bye
Table - Hampton Park 21, Box Hill Inter 20, Monash

Gryphon 12, Melbourne University 11, Sandringham City 6, East Bentleigh 4, Crystal United 4.

ROUND 11 FIXTURES

Sunday August 1 Sandringham City v Box Hill Inter Melbourne University v East Bentleigh Hampton Park v Monash Gryphon Crystal United - bye

PROVISIONAL LEAG

DIVISION 1 - ROUND 16

Templestowe Eagles 4 - North Sunshine Eagles 2 Dandenong 1 - Morth Sunsaine Eagle Dandenong 1 - Monbulk 1 Brunswick City 8 - Springvale Condors 1 Endeavour United 3 - Mitcham United 1 Morwell Pegasus 3 - Sydenham Park 2 Riversdale 1 - South Caulfield 1

Table - Endeavour United 43, Morwell Pegasus 38, Brunswick City 35, Sydenham Park 29, Riversdale 25, Mitcham United 21, Templestowe Eagles 17, North Sunshine Eagles 16, Monbulk 14, Dandenong 10, South Caulfield 10, Springvale Condors 6.

ROUND 17 FIXTURES Saturday July 31 South Caulfield v Morwell Pegasus

Sydenham Park v Endeavour United North Sunshine Eagles v Riversdale Mitcham United v Brunswick City Springvale Condors v Dandenong Monbulk v Templestowe Eagles

DIVISION 2 NORTH-WEST - RD 16

Elwood City 1 - Meadow Park 0 Ballarat 3 - South Yarra 2 Somerton City 8 - Keon Park 1 Hoppers Crossing 3 - University of Melbourne 0 Broadmeadows United 1 - Mill Park 1 Melbourne University 1 - Glenroy 3 - Hoppers Crossing 37, Glenroy

City 32, Somerton City 30, University of Melbourne 26, Ballarat 25, Mill Park 19, Broadmeadows United 19, Melbourne University 16, South Yarra 9, Keon Park 9, Meadow Park 7.

ROUND 17 FIXTURES

Saturday July 31 Glenroy v Broadmeadows United Mill Park v Hoppers Crossing Meadow Park v Melbourne University University of Melbourne v Somerton City Keon Park v Ballarat South Yarra v Elwood City

DIVISION 2 SOUTH-EAST - RD 16

Brandon Park 0 - Newborough/Yallourn 1 Clayton 1 - Heatherton United 1 Dandenong Inter 0 - Braeside United 6 Noble Park 2 - Dingley City 3 Doveton 2 - Waverley Wanderers 1 Ashburton 3 - Monash University 3

Table - Waverley Wanderers 35, Doveton 35, Clayton 35, Dingley City 26, Heatherton United 24, Newborough/Yallourn 23, Brandon Park 20, Braeside United 18, Ashburton 16, Monash University 15, Dandenong Inter 12, Noble Park 11.

ROUND 17 FIXTURES

Saturday July 31 Monash University v Doveton Waverley Wanderers v Noble Park Newborough/Yallourn v Ashburton Dingley City v Dandenong Inter Braeside United v Clayton Heatherton United v Brandon Park

DIVISION 3 NORTH-WEST - RD 16

Northern United 0 - Brimbank City I Flemington Falcons 3 - La Trobe University I Whittlesea United 0 - Keilor United 0 West Preston 0 - North Glenroy 6 Watsonia Heights 1 - Darebin United 1 North Reservoir 1 - Brimbank 1

Table - Whiitlesea United 40, North Glenroy 34, Darebin United 28, Keilor United 25, Brimbank 25, ank City 23, Flemington Falcons 21, La Trobe University 19, North Reservoir 18, Watsonia Heights 14, Northern United 14, West Preston 9.

ROUND 17 FIXTURES

Sunday August 1 Brimbank v Watsonia Heights Darebin United v West Preston Brimbank City v North Reservoir North Glenroy v Whittlesea United Keilor United v Flemington Falcons La Trobe University v Northern United

DIVISION 3 SOUTH-EAST - RD 16

Ivanhoe United 0 - Endeavour Hills 0 Beaumaris 2 - Noble Park United 1 Newport United 1 - Thorrbury United 3
Rowville Eagles 1 - Old Camberwell Grammar 1
Collingwood City 4 - Parkmore 0
Moreland United 2 - North Caulfield 3

Table - Noble Park UNited 33, North Caulfield 32, Moreland United 32, Endeavour Hills 28, Collingwood City 26, Thornbury United 22, Ivanhoe United 21, Rowville Eagles 20, Old Camberwell Grammar 18, Beaumaris 14, Parkmore 9, Newport United 7,

ROUND 17 FIXTURES

Sunday August 1 North Caulfield v Collingwood City Parkmore v Rowville Eagles Endeavour Hills v Moreland United Old Camberwell Grammar v Newport United Thornbury United v Beaumaris Noble Park United v Ivanhoe United





PREMIER LEAGUE TO GO RIGHT DOWN TO THE W

fter taking a week off, the Premier League resumes on the weekend with the champions and two relegation spots yet to be decided.

All but four sides (Sunshine, Westvale, Bentleigh and Fawkner) have something to play four in the remaining three rounds.

Green Gully are in the box seat to take the title for the first time since 1983.

After trailing Port Melbourne for much of the season, the Cavaliers enjoy a three point lead and an easier run home than their rivals for the championship, Port Melbourne and Preston.

This coming Monday night, they host the already relegated Sunshine Georgies. They then travel to Altona Magic before finishing at home against St Albans.

The turning point in Gully's championship surge was undoubtedly their 1-0 win over the Sharks in round 20

The Cavaliers were still behind on points after that result but two 3-0 losses in succession for the Sharks coupled with two Gully wins soon had them in front

Port, unlike the Cavaliers, have a tougher finish to the campaign. This week they are away to Preston, then at home to South Dandenong before ending the season with a trip to Bulleen.

Down at the bottom, things are less clear. Sunshine and Westvale are already relegated but just who will accompany them remains a mystery.

Melbourne Raiders, though in sixth spot, can still be relegated. Bulleen and St Albans are not safe either.

And the two Altona sides - Magic and East an still find themselves in deep trouble.

Below are the remaining three games for each side with something left to play for.

PORT MELBOURNE

v Preston (A) v Sth Dandenong (H)

v Bulleen (A)

MELB. RAIDERS

v Altona M. (H)

v St Albans (A) v Sth Dandenong (A)

ST ALBANS

v Sth Dandenong (A)

STH DANDENONG

v Melb. Raiders (H)

v Green Gully (A)

GREEN	GULLY
D-4 24	Conchine (1

Rnd 24 v Altona M. (A)

Rnd 26 v St Albans (H)

PRESTON Rnd 24 v Port Melb. (H)

Rnd 25 v Bulleen (A) Rnd 26 v Westvale (H)

BULLEEN

Rnd 24 v Altona E. (A) Rnd 25 v Preston (H) Rnd 26 v Port Melb (H)

ALTONA MAGIC ALTONA EAST Rnd 24 v Melb. Raiders (A) v Bulleen (H)

Rnd 25 v Green Gully (H) v Westvale (A) Rnd 26 v Fawkner (A) v Springvale W.E. (H)

SPRINGVALE W.E. Rnd 24 v Fawkner (A) Rnd 25 v Bentleigh (H)

v St Albans (H) v Port Melb. (A) Rnd 26 v Altona E. (A) v Melb. Raiders (H)

he race for this years Gold Medal is wide open according to ABSW's Premier League experts Melbourne Raiders' George Jolevski won the last two medals but this year, he is unlikely to make it a

Nick Tsaltas and Warren Spink have enjoyed fantastic seasons and Zlatko Mihajlovic has been a lone hand at Springvale White Eagles.

Brandon Vassallo and Harry Micheil also figure in he experts selections

Below are the ABSW expert selections for this years awards, as well as the ABSW Premier League

ABSW PREMIER LEAGUE EXPERT'S **SELECTIONS**

Milan Ninovic

Gold Medal - Zlatko Mihajlovic

(Springvale W.E.) Goalkeeper of the Year - Lupce Acevski (Preston Lions)

Under-21 Player of the Year - Rade Culibrk (Springvale W.E.)

Kevin Christopher

Gold Medal - Harry Micheil (Bentleigh Greens) Goalkeeper of the Year - Chris Roche (South Dandenong) Under-21 Player of the Year - Roddy Vargas (Port Melbourne)

Bert van Bedaf

Gold Medal - Brandon Vassallo (Green Gully Cavaliers) Goalkeeper of the Year - Lupce Acevski (Preston Lions)

Under-21 Player of the Year - Sasa Ognenovski (Preston Lions)



Harry Karl

Ivan Perkov Gold Medal - Harry Karl

(St Albans Saints) Goalkeeper of the Year - Lupce Acevski (Preston Lions)

Under-21 Player of the Year - Ivan Razov (St Albans Saints)

George Koukeris

Gold Medal - Warren Spink (Preston Lions) Goalkeeper of the Year - Lupce Acevski (Preston Lions)

Under-21 Player of the Year - Cameron Pino (Bentleigh Greens)

Dwyght Tuffnell

Gold Medal - Nick Tsaltas (Port Melbourne) Goalkeeper of the Year - Lupce Acevski (Preston Lions) Under-21 Player of the Year - Roddy Vargas (Port Melbourne)

ABSW PREMIER LEAGUE TEAM OF THE SEASON

GOALKEEPER

Lupce Acevski (Preston)

DEFENDERS

Roddy Vargas (Port Melbourne)

Frank Tramontana (Fawkner)

Zoran Markovski (Green Gully)

Harry Micheil (Bentleigh Gr.)

MIDFIELD

George Tzirtis (Port Melbourne) Brandon Vassallo (Green Gully)

Nick Cuculeski (Melb. Raiders)

Zlatko Mihajlovic (Springvale W.E.)

STRIKERS

Harry Karl (St Albans)

Nick Tsaltas (Port Melbourne)

Subs: Warren Spink (Preston), Toni Trifunov (Altona Magic), Ivan Duzel (Fawkner), Paul Della Rocca (Bulleen), Chris Roche (South Dandenong).

eat well M

ROUND 23

Westvale 0 - Pawkner Blues 3 (Bordignon, Emmanuele, Tramontana)
Bulleen Inter Kings 3 (Gnjidic 2, Babic) - Bentleigh Greens 3 (Kotsovolos 2, Drakos)

of thought a light of traces a st	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Green Gully Cavaliers	23	14	7	2	48	20	49
Port Melbourne Sharks	23	14	4	5	52	28	46
Preston Lions	23	14	2	7	45	32	44
Bentleigh Greens	23	- 11	6	6	56	30	39
Fawkner Blues	23	11	4	8	37	29	37
Melbourne Raiders	23	9	5	9	33	41	32
Bulleen Inter Kings	23	8	7	8	33	31	31
St Albans Saints	23	9	3	11	35	34	30
Altona Magic	23	8	5	10	32	42	29
Altona East Phoenix	23	7	6	10	26	34	27
Springvale White Eagles	23	7	5	11	33	36	26
South Dandenong	23	6	6	11	40	52	24
Westvale	23	4	7	12	30	59	19
Sunshine Georgies	23	4	3	16	24	56	15

ROUND 24 FIXTURES

 ${\bf Saturday\ July\ 31}$ South Dandenong v St Albans Saints - kick off 3pm at George Andrews Reserve

Sunday August 1

Preston Lions v Port Melbourne Sharks - kick off 3pm at Goodyear Stadium Altona East Phoenix v Bulleen Inter Kings - kick off 3pm at Paisley Park Bentleigh Greens v Westvale - kick off 3pm at Kingston Heath Reserve Fawkner Blues v Springvale White Eagles - kick off 3pm at Smith Reserve

Monday August 2

Green Gully Cavaliers v Sunshine Georgies - kick off 8.15pm at Green Gully Reserve
Melbourne Raiders v Altona Maglic - kick off 8.15pm at Epping Soccer
Stadium



SI VicHealth



Old-Soccer-Federation

PERRY PARK

Abbotsford Road, Mayne, Queensland 4006

Tel: 07 3252 5327

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A move to Mackay when 11 found him pulling on the boots at the Wanderers club for a couple of seasons and then to Brisbane and the Queensland Academy of Sport under coach Jim Selby.

A highlight at the age of 13 was meeting Pele at Perry Park in Queensland,

"It was exhilarating to meet the best there ever was in the world," Ditton

"At the time I was overawed being in his presence and kicking a few balls with him."

Queensland coach Bruce Stowell was suitably impressed with the redheaded player when Ditton was in the Queensland U15's. Stowell mentioned him to AIS coach Ron Smith.

Smith must have been impressed as well because Ditton moved to Canberra and spent the next two and a half years with Smith.

As the AIS, Ditton played for the Australian Youth team on many occasions and travelled overseas with the team to South America, Malaysia and

Of the trip to Holland, Denis Berkcamp figures prominently in Ditton's

"I remember playing against Berkcamp in a game when he scored a screamer," Ditton said.

"He passed about six players on his way to goal."

After the AIS Ditton returned to Queensland and was picked up by Brisbane United who were being coached by Miron Bleiberg.

At the demise of United, Ditt's as he is commonly called, signed a two year deal with the Strikers where he played until going overseas.

In seeking to further his soccer career, Ditton travelled to the UK and trialed with English first division team Oldham but after eight months and no surf, homesick set in and the call of Queensland beaches was too strong.

Ditton returned home, signed again with the Strikers and was part of the team in the 96/97 season under player/coach Frank Farina, however he missed out on playing in that grand final. He had undergone an ankle reconstruction and watched the game from the stands.

"It was hard to take sitting that one out," Ditton said.

"Still, it was good to be a part of that season, it was an incredible year."

It was during this time that Ditton attended TAFE and acquired a Diploma of Recreation that led to his current job.

A partnership with Nicole Donnelley saw the formation of their own busi-

ness as personal trainers. Working out of the Healthworks Gym at Beenleigh, the business has exceeded all expectations.

"We've been going three years now and this year has been the busiest," Ditton said.

"I didn't expect it to be so good, it really has caught us off guard."

For the past two seasons, Ditton has been playing with Brisbane team Rochedale Rovers. Last year they made the grand final but lost to Brisbane Lions 1-0. However this season, things are looking brighter for Ditton and the Rovers.

"I think we are going to win our first ever premiership," Ditton said.

A STRIKING GOAL FOR DITTON



Brad Ditton ... A major part of the Rochedale Rovers.

"It will be an honour to be part of the club's history if it happens and I am

Although he enjoys a good work-out at the gym, this tough soccer player is a romantic at heart and loves nothing better than candlelit dinners. He has two things he would like to achieve in the near future.

"I really want to play for the Strikers again," Ditton said.

"Also I would like to get married and be happy."

Coach John Ogden is confident Taringa Rovers can stay in the Queensland premier league title chase despite the immediate loss of striker Andrew Packer to Melbourne national league club, Carlton.

Packer signed with Carlton last Friday after he and fellow Taringa striker Des Hughes trialled with the club last week.

Packer, one of the success stories at Taringa, had a brief stint with Brisbane Strikers in the national league but Carlton beat the local side to the punch in signing the promising 18-year-old for the next national league season.

Taringa missed Packer's services in their 1-nil win over Bundaberg Waves on Saturday night, but Ogden still believes he has a potent strike force.

"We still have a forward line of Richard Hilli, Ben Wood and Des Hughes," Ogden said.

However, Hughes also is being courted by Carlton which would be a major blow for Taringa and the Brisbane Strikers if he too flew the coup.

"They're also interested in Des but Carlton are looking at three others players for Des' position," Ogden said.

"This is what Taringa is all about getting young players into national league clubs."

Hilli was the solitary goal scorer for Taringa when he headed home a cross to the far post from Wood after Taringa broke quickly down the right flank.

The game miraculously went ahead after being put back an hour following a torrential downpour mid-afternoon in Bundaberg on Saturday.

"The ground was underwater at 3pm and the game was put back an hour to allow it to drain," Ogden said.

"It was still very slushy but all the surface water had disappeared by the time we kicked off."

After the loss of Packer, who leaves this week with Carlton on a pre-season tour of China, Ogden is pinning his faith on Hilli after his recent return

to form.

"Richard has been playing in the reserves because his form wasn't the best but he's come good in the last two matches against Brisbane City and

Bundaberg," Ogden said.

Bundaberg, who are out of semi-final contention, were in the game although they trailed at half-time, according to Ogden.

"Bundaberg had a good 20 minute period in the first half, but after the break I thought we dominated and should have scored more," he said.

oreax I mought we dominated and should have scored indee, he said.

Taringa, who have suffered from missed opportunities in recent weeks, hit
the woodwork four times in the game with young midfielder Scott Robinson
hitting the upright three times while Hughes hit the crossbar with another

"We probably needed one of those to go in to ease the pressure but we're creating chances and one day they'll go in," Ogden said.

Taringa's win leaves them in third place, ahead of fourth placed Brisbane Lions on goal differences following their 6-2 rout over Wynnum.

Lions' striker Warren Allen, who got married last week, produced an inspired performance setting up all three Lions' first half goals before netting a second half double himself.

Allen was outstanding breaking down the left flank in the opening half firing in a perfect cross for Vedran Becirbegovic to open the scoring with a 10th minute header.

Wynnum got back to level terms in the 27th minute through Owen Filewood before the Lions went to the break with a 3-1 lead after two late goals within four minutes from striker Greg Di Losa.

Allen got the first of his double three minutes after the resumption sending the homeside to a 4-1 lead before Wynnum hit back in the 50th minute when striker Scott Rocker scored.

Lions' midfielder Steve Starr gave his side an unassailable 5-2 lead in the 80th minute before Allen capped off his remarkable game with Lions' sixth goal two minutes from time.

At the Gold Coast, league leaders Rochedale shared the points in a thrilling 2-all draw with second placed Gold Coast, Mt Gravatt continue to find the premier league hard going losing 3-nil to Ipswich while rain washed

31-07	Wynnum	٧	Gold Coast	7,00pm
31-07	Mt Gravatt	٧	Brisbane City	7.00pm
31-07	B'berg Waves	٧	Brisbane Lions	7.00pm
31-07	Rochedale Rov	v	Ipswich Knight	7.00pm
01-08	Taringa Rovers	V	Toowoomba Utd	7.00pm

QUEENSLAND RESULTS & TABLES

DIVISION ONE SOUTH DIVISION ONE NORTH XXXX LEAGUE PWDLF P W D L F A D Pts PWDLFA D Pts A D Pts 22 14 2 6 51 32 19 44 18 12 2 4 47 22 25 38 Rocklea Utd 19 13 3 3 57 26 31 42 Rochedale Roy North Star 20 11 3 6 37 21 16 36 Capalaba 19 13 1 5 34 20 14 40 Gold Coast 22 10 9 3 43 31 12 39 Pine Rivers Utd 18 10 5 3 40 25 15 35 Souths Utd 17 10 3 4 43 20 23 33 21 11 4 6 38 21 17 37 Albany Creek Taringa Rovers 19 8 5 6 43 41 2 29 Brisbane Lions 22 11 4 7 46 34 12 37 Eastern Subs 17 9 5 3 37 24 13 32 Slacks Creek 18 7 2 9 29 45 -16 23 21 10 5 6 32 23 9 35 Uni of Qld 20 9 2 9 38 39 -1 29 Inala City IPSW Knights 18 6 4 8 34 38 4 22 21 10 3 8 37 28 9 33 Newmarket 18 7 5 6 30 29 Beenleigh Brisbane City Redlands Utd 19 6 3 10 26 40 -14 21 22 6 5 11 32 36 4 23 The Gap 18 5 2 11 31 49 -18 17 **Bunderberg Waves** 18 6 0 12 30 38 -8 18 22 5 3 14 32 54 -22 18 **Grange Thistle** 18 3 5 10 18 43 -25 14 Olympic Utd Wynnum 21 4 6 11 20 43 -23 18 19 1 3 15 16 42 -26 6 Acacia Ridge 19 2 3 14 18 46 -28 9 Mitchelton Toowoomba Utd 22 4 5 13 30 59 -29 17 Mt Gravatt **ROUND 22 SCORES ROUND 22 SCORES** ALL MATCHES WASHED OUT **ROUND 22 SCORES**3 Pine Rivers Utd2 Uni of Old Albany Creek - BYE WASHED OUT Mitchelton v Grange Thistle Bunderberg Waves0 Taringa Rovers1 The Gap v Eastern Subs North Star v Newmarket Brisbane City v Toowoomba Utd - Washed out

AUSTRALIAN & BRITISH

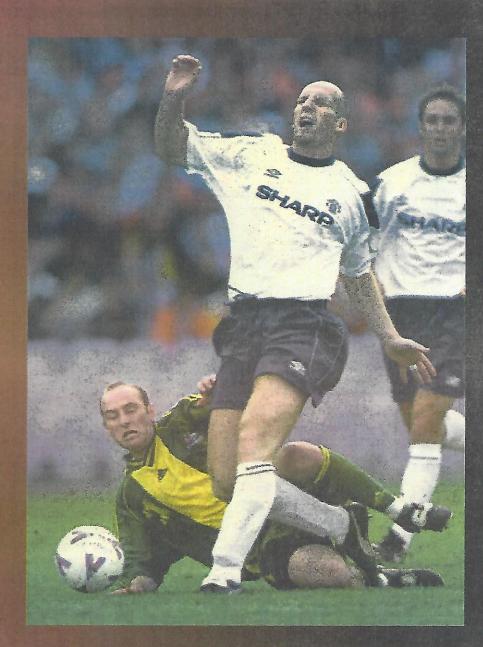
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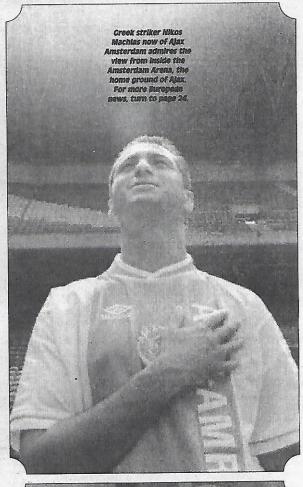
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TANZEY'S MISSION **- BEYOND 2000**

anberra's Chris Tanzey leads a new generation of Australian female soccer players this week on a mission aimed beyond the 2000 Olympics to the 2003 World Cup and through the first decade of the 21st Century.

The team he is taking to an eightnation tournament in Iceland beginning next month is nominally under 21 but in fact is much younger.

We could have included seven members of the current senior squad, but we decided that no-one who went to the World Cup in the United States would go on this trip," he said.

"As a result we've got a number of very young players. Some of them are going overseas for the first time.
"Many people can't understand why we

are not taking our strongest possible lineup to Iceland, but if Australia is to win any of the major tournaments we have to develop strength in depth.

"Quite frankly, results are not the most important thing in this competition - our aim is to build up experience among the players who will be knocking on the firstteam door in a year or two; to get more through the system.

"Having said that, we are not going all the way to Iceland just for the trip. The other countries will find us very competitive."

He said it was a tribute to Australia's standing in women's soccer that only they and senior world champion United States had been invited to a tournament which was otherwise restricted to Scandinavian and Northern European countries.

Tanzey has come a long way from the

days when he was in charge of Canberra City in the ACT Premiership. For years the former apprentice with English club Liverpool battled along in part-time positions in soccer, making do with slim and sometimes non-existent resources.

"I don't miss it, but in many ways it was a good grounding. It teaches you to take nothing for granted," he said. "When eventually I got a full-time position as head coach of the ACT Academy, it was

At last I was able to put all my ideas into practice."

That has continued as deputy to Australian coach Greg Brown, with special responsibility for the youth squad.

He follows a fine ACT tradition: Clive Mackillop, Steve Darby and Tom Sermanni have all taken charge of national women's teams while living in Canberra.

Australian women are used to breaking new ground - the Matildas caused a stir by touring North Korea as part of their World Cup warm-up — but Tanzey agrees that Iceland will be an experience.

"Apparently they're not having a good summer there, with the temperature around 10°C, so with a camp in Canberra before we go, we won't have any trouble getting acclimatised," he said.

Then we usually take away CDs of whale music to sooth the players at night. Someone joked that we could open the windows there and listen to them live."

Australia's final warm-up game will be against the senior Iceland team on July 30. The tournament proper begins on



7ith most local soccer attention focussed on a gripping contest for the ACT Premiership, a quiet revolution in the second division has gone largely ignored.

Although the O'Connor Knights club has been in existence just two years, they are currently undefeated and sitting on top of the table. The reserve grade outfit also heads their competition.

Not since the dramatic entry of Capital City Suns on to the local scene in 1997 has there been such a swift impact by a

O'Connor Knights have the backing of the Australian-Croatian Club in O'Connor which until recently had been content to leave the soccer aspects of Croatian life in the ACT to the Canberra Deakin Club, supporter of the long-established Premier Division One side.

That changed with the arrival of Ivan Cengic at the beginning of the 1998 season. He has been in Canberra since 1985 after leaving Croatia where he had played for a second division club.

After trialing with Monaro he signed for Deakin, and played three premiership seasons, but he was already considering a career in coaching.

His original plan was to enter a single team in ACT State League Division One, but at the request of Soccer Canberra, filled a vacancy in Premier Division Two which meant fielding firsts and reserves.

KNIGHTSP

CHARGE RAISES **QUESTIONS**

Despite the late change in plans, the Knights still managed fifth out of eight teams in their debut season.

This time they are the runaway leaders, and have collected one of the biggest followings in local competition.

Among Canberra personalities who support the club are leading lawyer Bernard Collaery and Sports Minister Bill Stefaniak.

The playing staff includes exciting nidfielder Tony Radic and stopper Domini Matic, both of whom will have trials with Ericsson Cup club Sydney United in the next few weeks.



Marko Perinovic, Belconnen United's veteran striker, who returned to form recently with a hat-trick in the ACT Premiership match against Queanbeyan City.

"Radic will also trial with Bochum, which is a second division club in Germany," Cengic said.

He is pleased with the progress made by

Steven Rezo "a striker with speed to burn".

With this kind of playing talent on board it is no wonder the Knights are odds-on favourites for the second division championship. The club's long-term future is less clear.

Automatic promotion and relegation between the two Premier divisions abandoned during the off-season, and the Knights must apply to go up - if that is what they want.

They must decide soon want to join the top league I will be a part of their plans," Cengic said.

But the Knights' promotion could be opposed by Canberra Deakin, who may see a cond Croatian team in the Premiership as a dilution of support and resources. That will be an issue taken into consideration by Soccer Canberra if it comes to a vote.

Whatever the future, one thing is certain - Ivan Cengic is aiming for the top and won't be satisfied until he gets there.

Perinovic, a local product, has had a long career which also includes Canberra City Canberra Cosmos Sydney Olympic and Gippsland Falcons in the NSL, and erra Deakin and Monaro in the NSW

Superleague, Many people believe it was a mistake to allow him to leave the ACT for Gippsland last summer, at a time when the Cosmos was desperately short of strike power.

ungahiin Juventus' slide into ACT Premier League oblivion continued with a 3-0 loss to Canberra Deakin at Jamison Oval on Sunday.

The result ends any realistic hopes Juvenius may have entertained of scrambling into a finals position—an incredible fall for the club which wo six matches on the trot and were challenging for top spot in the first half of the

Deakin, their own run of bad results ended by this game will still think they are a top-four possibility, but their task is an enormous one, especially as the five teams above them continue to harvest points.

continue to narvest points.

Three of them won and the first versus second contest
between Monaro and Weston Creek Royals, ended in a
thrilling 3-3 draw at Woden Park. Deakin co-coach. Bernie Lustica said that even at half

Deakin co-coach, Bernie Lustica said that even at half time, with the score at 0-0, he had felt confident of a win.

It told the players they had let themselves down with the chances they missed in first half," he said. "As soon as we sooned the result was not in doubt."

Both teams had early opportunities to take the lead. With seven minutes gone Craig Rankine set up a Javentus attack, Aidan Griffiths crossed, only for Luke Morgan to bungle a simple shot with the Deakin defence in confusion.

Three minutes later, a penetrating run by Deakin's Zoran Glavinic set up Vince Bodo, who blazed over the bar from close range.

Deakin's appeals for a penalty were ignored after Marcel Munoz went over in a clash with Steve Kemp, then Juventus' best player, defender Anthony Rinaudo, shot over the bar in

The breakthrough came in the 51st minute, Ben Deighan heading home from a comer. Paul Ivanic made it 2-0 at the end of a smart Deakin counter-attack, and in stoppage time Munoz got on the end of Mark Djikic's cross to complete Juventus afternoon of woe. Lustica admitted that achieving a top-four place was going

to be difficult. "But we've narrowed the gap to just four points outside the four, so we live in hope."

outside the four, so we live in hope."

In one of the most enthralling games of the season, Weston Creek scored two goals in the last seven minutes to snatch a 3-3 draw with league leaders Monaro. Both coaches accused their players of "going to sleep" for crucial periods. Monaro's sourers were John Rabic (2) and Darryl North, Peter Hader, Adrian Parragalli and Nabel Adhami replied for Royals.

Belconnen United, with goals from Matt Whyte, South Manson, Adrian Dowling and Craig Univin, beat Burns Club 4-0, exposing once again Burns' lack of power up front—they have scored just once in the last four games.

No such problem with Capital City Suns, where four goals apiece from Tony Lemezina and Par Hommaseisy paved the way to a 10-11 win over Queenbeyan City.

way to a 10-1 win over Queanbeyan City.

Lemezina's performance left Suns' joint coach Ian Shaw
almost lost for words. "He's a magician...easily the best striker

amost tost for worts. The sain angician, cashiy the best stock in Canherra, "he said.

Shane Lyons and Hija Prenzoski completed the rout.
Queanbeyan's sole-scorer was Goran Veljanovski.

In the remaining match, Canherra Olympic continued to maintain pressure on the leaders with a 3-0 win over University of Canherra, scoring though Ellie Salloum, Misseal Described and Pios Samuera. Niegosh Popovich and Pino Seminara

ACT PREMIER LEAGUE

Weston Creek	Royals	3	M	onar)			3
Canberra Olym	pic	3	U	ai of	Cant	епа		£
Queanbeyan C								
Burns Club		0	B	elcon	nen l	Unite	d	4
Gungahlin Juv	entus	0	C	mber	ni D	eakin	•••	3
	P	W	SD	D	L	F	A	Pts
Moneyo	12	Q	2	0	2	42	12	31

Weston Creek Royals13 7 4 0
Capital City Suns 13 9 1 0
Belconnen United 13 8 2 0

42 17 3 40 14

Canberra Olympic Canberra Deakin Gungahlin Juventus 13 Uni of Canberra 13

Under 2ks: Weston Creek Royals 1 Monaro 1, Canberra Olympie 1 University of Canberra 3, Queambeyan City O Capital City Suns 9, Burns Club 0 Belconnen United 1, Gungalila Juventus 3 Canberra Deakin 2.

Points: University of Canberra 32, Belconnen United 30, Monaro 23, Weston Creek Royals 29, Canberra Olympie 23, Capital City Suns 17, Canberra Deakin 16, Gungalila Juventus 13, Burns Club 12, Queambeyan City 0.

Youth League (Cosmos Division): Weston Creek 2 Monaro 2, Canberra Olympie 1 University of Canberra 5, Queanbeyan City 0 Capital City Suns 3, Burns Club 2 Belconnen United 4, Gungalila Juventus 3 Canberra Deakin 2.

2.
Points: Belconnen United 39, University of Canberra 32,
Gungahim Juventus 27, Weston-Greek Royals 26, Canberra
Deakin 23, Monaro 14, Capital City Suns 14, Canberra
Olympie 9, Burns Club 6, Queanbeyan City S.
Youth League (Rockets Division): Radford 1 Belconnen
United 3, Belwest Foxes 0 Tuggeranong United 3.
Points: Tuggeranong United 38, Belconnen United 27,
Belwest Foxes 17, Radford 12, Southern Spirit 12, Belsouth 6.
Division 2

		MARKET							
	3								
Belwest Foxes0			Tuggeranong United3						
	0								
P	W	SD	D	L	F	A	Pts		
16	12	2	2	0	32	5	42		
16	10	3	0	3	47	17	36		
16	5	4	1	6	31	27	24		
16	8	0	3	7	29	27	23		
16	6	2	0	8	31	36	22		
	P 16 16 16 16 16	P W 16 12 16 10 16 5 16 8	P W SD 16 12 2 16 10 3 16 5 4 16 8 0	P W SD D 16 12 2 2 16 10 3 0 16 5 4 1 16 8 0 3	0 Tuggeranor Cooma P W SD D L 16 12 2 2 0 16 10 3 0 3 16 5 4 1 6 16 8 0 3 7	P W SD D L F 16 12 2 2 0 32 16 10 3 0 3 47 16 5 4 1 6 3 16 8 0 3 7 29	P W SD D L F A 16 12 2 2 0 32 5 16 10 3 0 3 47 17 16 5 4 1 6 31 27 16 8 0 3 7 29 27		

0 8 25 30 1 7 22 42 0 11 12 45

White Engles 15 5 2 0 8 23 30 19
Sabres 15 2 6 1 7 22 42 17
Defence Academy 14 1 2 0 11 12 45 7
Reserves: ANU 2 Sabres 1, Belwest Foxes 2 Teggeranong
United 3, O'Connor Knights 5 Cooma 6.
Points: O'Connor Knights 41, Taggeranong United 33,
ANU 32 Belwest Foxes 30, White Engles 25, Defence
Academy 14, Sabres 11, Cooma 4.

ACT STATE LEAGUE

Division 1: Belconnen United 2 University of Canberra 0, ANU 5 Southern Spirit 0, Canberra City 3 Valley Blues 0, Burns Club 4 Ginninderra 2.

Points: Belconnen United 33, Monaro 29, Ginninderra 27, Points: Belconnen United 33, Monaro 29, Cinamoterra 21, Burns 25, ANU 22, Canberra City 18, University of Canberra 12, Valley Blues 10, Southern Spirit 4. Division 2: Belconnen United 1 University of Canberra 2, ANU 0 Tuggeranong United 2, Canberra City 0 Valley Blues 2, Burns Club 3 Giminiaderra 1. Points: ANU 31, Belconnen United 31, Gongahlin

Juventus 28, University of Canberra 28, Burns Club 28, Ginninderra 23, Belwest Foxes 22, Tuggeranong United 11, Canberra City 10, Valley Blues 5.

Division 3: University of Canberra II 10 Canberra City 4,

Tuggeranong United 3 Defence Academy II 1, Belconnen United 0 ANU 3.

Points: Harmonie 33, Weston Creek Royals 30, Valley Points: Harmonic 33, Weston Creek Royals 30, Valley Blues 27, Fyshwick 27, ANU 24, Belconnen United 22, University of Canberra II 16, Defence Academy I 14, Tuggeranong United 12, Defence Academy II 11, Canberra City 6, University of Canberra I 0. Division 4: Trojans 5 ANU 1 1, University of Canberra 2 Canberra City 0, Burns Club 1 ANU II 2, Weston Creek Royals 4 Defence Academy 3. Points: Trojans 37, ANU II 33, University of Canberra 1 32, Harmonic 28, ANU 1 27, Weston Creek Royals 27, Burns 19, University of Canberra II 17, Valley Blues 12, Fyshwick 8, Canberra City 5, Defence Academy 4.

Soccer Weekly

SOCCER IN CHINA GETS A BOOST

hina's state-run women's organization has set up a special fund to support the development of women's soccer in China.

The "China Woman Football Development Fund". hed by the All-China Women's Federation, has received 10 million yuan (\$1.2 million) from the Prosperity Share Holding Co. Ltd., the first enterprise to donate to the fund.

The fund will be used to improve the living and training conditions of the Chinese women's soccer team and expand domestic and international cooperation and exchanges in women's soccer.

It will also issue regulations on the use of the soccer fund and establish a management committee composed of large donors, renowned public figures, experts and scholars, as well as outstanding athletes, coaches, and judges

ations hotline has already been opened.

He added that a lack of financial support had become major factor hindering the development of the sport in China and hoped the new fund would help promote the

The United States won the World Cup final against China 5-4 on penalties last week before a roaring home crowd that included President Bill Clinton after the two sides battled to a scoreless draw.

The All China Sports Federation, China's sports governing body, estimated that up to 100 million Chinese watched the match even though it kicked off in the early hours of the morning here.

Meanwhile, the China Sports Daily reported Monday that the professional Women's

Super League would need an additional four to five million yuan (\$480,000-\$600,000) to cover its expenses this season.

League officials were actively trying to raise funds



China delt Uympic blow

opes by Olympic soccer coach Bobby Houghton of taking China to the 2000 Sydney Games have been hit bythe draw which landed it in the same group as South Korea, Asia's long-time soccer power

After successfully guiding China's national team to a bronze medal finish at the Asian Games last December, the British coach has run out of luck.

"South Korea, of course, has to be favored as the strongest team but beyond that there is not much point in speculating, especially on the Olympic level," Houghton said.

The Chinese Football Association hired the former Nottingham Forest coach as head coach of the national and Olympic sides 18 months ago with a mandate to qualify for the Olympics and the next World Cup.

Houghton has guided Chinese national teams to 33 wins against five losses but has not been able to shake off the self-doubt that lingers like a fog over China's

With the final round of Olympic qualifying set to begin in October, the time has come for his first big

"The only problem is that because China has never qualified for the World Cup final or the Olympic finals, there is a feeling of negativity over how good the team can be," he said.

"The most important thing is that we must qualify and then maybe a little bit of the doubt can be addressed."

Chinese soccer fans were greatly disheartened by the draw for the final round of Asia Olympic qualifiers, while the ultra-critical football press has accused the Asian Football Association of favoring Japan and South Korea, the two host nations of the 2002 World Cup.

"My feeling is that China is as strong or stronger than any other team in the continent,"Houghton said.

"As far as the players are concerned, I hope they believe, I think the players believe but not the whole of China and that's a problem.

China's senior national team drew in regula-

tion time with South Korea in the recent Dunhill Cup in Vietnam, but lost in overtime.

This has instilled some confidence in the players, even though the South Koreans have beaten China in the last 20-odd matches.

Houghton has brought to China a coaching method centered on raising the physical, technical, tactical and mental aspects of the Chinese game, and stressing to the players the importance of integrating all four aspects.

"The main thing for the Chinese is they have got to

get all aspects of the game right. We have a team with good physical and technical ability, but that has to be matched with good preparation on the tactical and mental aspects," he said.

For Houghton, this means spending time flying around China looking for new talent in Football Leagu matches and then working a diverse team into a unit that plays as one,

Houghton took over the Chinese side after Qi Wusheng was sacked following China's failure to reach the World Cup finals in France.

He is the second foreigner to coach the Chinese team. Germany's Klaus Schlappner was sacked in 1993 after the national side failed to make the 1994 World Cup finals in the United States.

But the situation has changed significantly since Schlappner left. The German had to break the players' smoking habits, had no Chinese professional league to draw talent from and was obliged to overcome the practice of placing burdensome rules on players' off-field

The Chinese team with American President Bill Clinton following their loss in the World Cup Final.

'Women's football has gone through several periods of difficulty since it was developed in China more than a decade ago," according to Ma Yuan'an, coach of the tional women's team which finished runners-up in the FIFA Women's World Cup in Los Angeles earlier this

following the success of the national team, it said.

The three-year-old league has traditionally recieved funding from clothing sponsorship, television rights to their games and the Li Ning Sporting Company, but have been forced to look elsewhere for additional funds this year, the report said.

rystal Palace will use the 700,000 pounds sale of Chinese international Sun Jihai to pay outstanding player wages.

is expected to agree personal terms with his former club Dalian Wanda and the proceeds will make up the shortfall that senior players have suffered since their wages ere capped in March.

The move will be worth more than 40,000 pounds to the likes of Lee Bradbury, Kevin Miller and Craig Foster. But Steve Coppell's club will not lose any of the money to the Football League, even though they owe other UK clubs 1.5million pounds in unpaid transfer fees.

SHANGHAI ANGRY

occer fans in Shanghai voiced disappointment as a Manchester United team devoid of nearly all its stars beat Chinese league leaders Shanghai Shenbua 2-0.

We've been cheated out of our money," a teenage boy sporting a United jersey with star midfielder David Beckham's name and number said after the hotly anticipated match, which sold out an unprecedented five weeks in advance.

"I came to see the team that won the treble, not this," he said referring to United's stunning performance in winning the English premier league title, the FA Cup and European Cup in succession.

Beckham stayed at home for rehabilitation of a hamstring injury after returning from his honeymoon with new wife Victoria "Posh Spice" Adams of the Spice Girls.

Team manager Alex Ferguson was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II on the day of the game and could not make the trip. Regular captain Roy Keane, Norwegian defender

Ronny Johnsen, England midfielder Paul Scholes and defender Gary Neville also stayed at home to recuperate from off-season injuries.

But Shanghai fans, who paid 60 to 500 yuan (seven to 60 dollars) a ticket for the match, were outraged to discover that Ryan Giggs did not play although he travelled to Shanghai.

Star strikers Andy Cole and Teddy Sheringham played only one half each, and Dwight Yorke was

only inserted in injury time

Shenhua drew repeated roars from the strongly partisan crowd of 80,000 in the scoreless first half. engineering more scoring opportunities and keeping pace with the English squad.



United's Andy Cole gets past Liao of Shanghai.

But they could not convert any of their chances, and United went ahead in the 57th minute after a series of misses. Ole Gunnar Solskiaer beat goalkeep er Ou Chuliang in a one-on-one charge with a deft tap at close range that rolled just inside the right post.

Sloppy defensive play in the area 12 minutes later saw an unmarked Sheringham collect a deflect-ed ball directly in front of the goal mouth and slam it into the back of the net. The goals drew lukewarm applause from the crowd.

Before the game a number of fans said they were keen to see how their league-leading Shenhua side would compare with United but most left dissatis-

"Shenhua played as well as they did and could have easily won or tied, but it didn't mean so much to me, because it wasn't the real Manchester United the team we see on television," said a man who brought his seven-year-old son.

Reports and rumours about Beckham's presence or absence for the match had in recent weeks caused blackmarket prices for tickets to rise and fall wildly

United, who have legions of supporters throughout the world, aimed to capitalise on their phenomenal recent successes by further promoting their brand' during the tour of Australia and the Far East.

The football world's richest and most glamorou club made 29.6 million pounds profit last year after excluding players' transfer fees.



Foster is set to make more money after Sun Jihai was released by Crystal Palace.

hai star Kiatisak Senamuang has flown into Bangkok vowing to keep pursuing a professional career despite being rejected by English premiership club Middlesbrough.

"I am not disappointed - I'm not very sorry, but it is a " he said as he returned home after a two-week trial. "It is my dream to play professional, I will make it one

Middlesbrough assistant manager Viv Anderson said the club felt the 26-year-old striker was "not quite right for the

Kiatisak's trial with the northern English club was hampered by a mixup over registration papers which ruled him out of a practice match.

But he said his spell in a training camp alongside stars like Paul Gascoigne and Middlesbrough manager Bryan Robson would boost his career and the fortunes of the Thai national

Kiatisak, nicknamed "Zico" after the great Brazilian, capred Thai hearts when he led the national team to gold at the Southeast Asian Games in Singapore six years ago.

NORTH AMERICA

US WOMEN VISIT WHITE HOUSE

President Clinton marked "a moment of celebra-tion and a moment of sadness" welcoming the United States women's national team to the White House and then pausing to remember John F. Kennedy Jr., his wife and her sister.

The president and his wife, Hillary, and Vice President Al Gore and his wife, Tipper, joined hundreds of enthusi-astic fans on the South Lawn on a sweltering day.

Clinton saluted the team that beat China 5-4 on penal-



ty kicks on July 10 to win the Women's World Cup. He said they had "brought America to its feet, had us screaming pride and joy."

"Their triumph has surely become America's triumph," said Clinton, who attended the championship match at the Rose Bowl. "We are all proud of them

Clinton opened his remarks by speaking of Kennedy, his wife. Carolyn Bessette Kennedy, and her sister,

"We all know this is both a moment of celebration and a moment of sadness for the United States," the president said, adding: "Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of John Kennedy and Carolyn and Lauren Bessette.

"It is at times like this that we really stop to recognize that as big and diverse as our country is, we can come together as a national family," he said.

We can come together in sorrow or in joy if it reflects the values that we honor most. This is one of those

Mia Hamm, Brandi Chastain and the rest of the wom-en's World Cup team continued their New York City tour with an appearance on the Late Show with David Letterman.

The team postponed an appearance on Jay Leno's competing show because it felt obligated to appear on Letterman's program first.

Letterman has given the women plenty of attention

since the World Cup tournament began, constantly referring to them as "soccer mamas" and "babe city".

Hamm and Chastain were the only two players to be

interviewed by the New York host. They were asked a variety of questions ranging from why there is extra time in soccer to the reasons for their absence on a Wheaties

The segment, lasted about 15 minutes. It began with a standing ovation from the crowd and concluded with the rest of the team bringing out the World Cup trophy and ioining their teammates

Letterman gave each player and coach Tony DiCicco a voucher for a free dinner for two at the "21" restaurant in midtown Manhattan.

Hamm and Chastain, wearing yellow World Cup Tshirts and blue shorts, appeared at ease in front of Letterman, who has a reputation for making guests act

The host didn't pull many surprises during the segment, although an exchange about goalkeeper Briana Scurry did entertain the crowd.

The spirit of the rule is that the goalkeeper can move Chastain said about Scurry moving before a laterally, penalty kick.

"And sometimes, I think in this case, our goalkeeper maybe indicated she maybe had a little too much spirit with that rule."

It was the team's second appearance in New York since its shootout victory over China in the title match. There was a midtown parade last week in its honor.

e U.S. team arrived in Mexico for the FIFA ■ Confederations Cup with coach Bruce Arena saying the Americans are a long shot.

Arena conceded the first-round games against Brazil (July 28) and Germany (July 30) would be difficult.

If the Americans are eliminated, Arena said Mexico

would become his favorite to win the fourth edition of the tournament.

Arena said the Americans would play an exhibition game this week against Egypt, which is in the tournament's other group.

The tournament is for the champions of each of soccer's continental confederations

France, the World Cup champion, was invited but

The first three Conferations Cups were played in



ARIEL SETS RECORD MLS DEAL

cuadorian national team standout Ariel Graziani has transferred to Major League Soccer, the league announced in a record deal worth nearly \$2 million.

Graziani has not been assigned to one of MLS' 12 clubs. The 28-year-old forward, who with Emelec led the Ecuadorian first division in scoring in 1996 and 1997 with 28 and 24 goals respectively, is expected to get his team assignment early this week.

His transfer fee, according to league sources, eclipses the previous high, about \$1.4 million for Bolivian midfielder Marco Etcheverry of two-time league champion D.C. United in MLS' first season.

In MLS, all player contracts are negotiated and signed by the league, which pays the players out of a central fund

Major stars then are assigned to the various teams by the league's New York headquarters in the name of maintaining competitive balance

Only one club has any of its foreign player roster spots open - the New England Revolution. But with American international Joe-Max Moore and Venezuelan Giovanni Savarese on the Revolution roster, it is unlikely Graziani would be sent there without a series of trades being arranged beforehand.

Moore, who is third in the league in scoring with 10 goals, has been seeking a transfer to the Fusion in Miami, where he has a home

Graziani is the second high-profile South American to transfer to MLS in the last 10 days. The New York-New Jersey MetroStars acquired Colombian forward Henry Zambrano on July 13.

Like Zambrano, the Argentine-born and -raised Graziani is coming off the Copa America in Paraguay, where he scored one goal for Ecuador and was generally regarded as its best player in the tournament.

He spent last season with Morelia in the Mexican first division, scoring six goals in the Torneo Invierno accounting for a quarter of the club's offense, and eight in the Torneo Verano, seventh best in the league.

He played the previous Torneo Verano for Veracruz

in the Mexican first division.

The MLS Competition Committee is expected to announce the assignment of Graziani to an MLS club this week. Graziani is scheduled to make his MLS debut in mid-August.

"He's a pure goal scorer, plain and simple," said Kansas City Wizards defender Alexi Lalas, who along with Moore played on loan with Graziani at Emelec in

"He has a knack for scoring goals. He uses his speed and is a guy who will be able to withstand the physical punishment of MLS. He'll be a great addition to the league and whichever team he ends up with."

 $\mathbf{F}_{ ext{package}}^{ ext{ormer NFL}}$ star Terry Smith has agreed a takeover package with the administrators of English third division Chester City.

Smith, who played as a wide receiver for the New England Patriots, is heading a consortium that has bought the ailing club for an undisclosed sum

He has lived in England since the late 1908s and was formerly coach of the Manchester Spartans and British national American football teams.

Smith plans to use the marketing skills and training methods he learned in Manchester to fulfill his ambition of lifting Chester into the first division within three years. His first task will be to increase a fan base of just 2,500 people.

"We want people to think this club is part of the community and will use ideas that worked in America to bring people to this club and then make them want to come back," he said.

Chester was on the point of going out of business last November when administrators were brought in. They had named the end of last season as the date by which they needed to find a buyer for the club.

Chester's cash problems go back to the two seasons when it was forced to ground-share with Macclesfield while its new 6,000-capacity Deva Stadium was being

GERMAN BRAZI HUMB 1 3

BRAZIL GERMANY

4 0

fter a lackluster and highly defensive first half, a young Brazilian squad came together to play some brilliant soccer in the second half to beat Germany 4-0 in the opener of the Confederations Cup.

The Brazilians seemed like two different teams. In the first, they were indecisive, and while they dominated the ball they couldn't seem to get off a clean shot. Forwards Ronaldinho and Christian repeatedly got tripped up as they advanced into the penalty box.

The second half was another story. The Brazilians played gracefully, as the young players following in the tradition of their idols with brilliant passing and ball-

"That was the strategy," said Alex, a 21-year-old who scored two of the four goals.

Come in with a team heavy on marking and in the second half to bring out a more offensive team.

"In the second half we started out more rested and we took advantage of the Germans' weariness," added coach -Wanderley Luxemburgo.

The first goal came in minute 16 of the second half. An off-balance Ronaldinho headed the ball into the center of the field, and Ze Roberto shot a drive straight off goalie Jens Lehmann's hands.

Ten minutes later, German midfielder Michael Ballack tripped up forward Warley in the penalty box Brazil's 19-year-old up-and-coming star, Ronaldinho,

Lehmann blocked his shot to the left, but Ronaldinho easily tapped in the rebound to the right.

"I'm happy to have gotten a goal," Ronaldinho said after the game. "I feel like I grew during this game, and I think Brazil will grow even more during this competition.

In minute 40, Warley centered to Alex, who headed the ball into the net to Lehmann's right. Only three minutes later, Alex dribbled the ball up the middle all lone, easily faking out Lehmann and tapping in his goal.

Germany had few scoring opportunities, and most were shot wide. Its best opportunity came in 39th minute of the first half, when a long shot bounced off the hands of Brazilian goalie Dida and Michael Preetz tried to tap the ball in. Brazilian defender Evanilson cleared it.

Oliver Neuville also sent a nice pass to Michael Preetz in 13th minute of the second half, but Preetz headed it straight into Dida's hands.

"After the first goal, our defense sank because we're still in the physical preparation phase, and the Brazilians showed their technical superiority," said German coach Erich Ribbeck.

The game began rough, with three yellow cards in the first half - for Emerson and Vampeta of Brazil, and for Mehmet Scholl of Germany.

The matchup was seen as a test of the youth of each of the soccer powerhouses. Both countries fielded young teams, devoid of many of their major stars.

Brazil comes off a win in th Copa America only a week ago, and many players on both teams are starting

preseason with their European clubs.

Guadalajara residents — 90 percent according to one survey - were upset about the rosters, which lacked Brazilian scorers Ronaldo and Rivaldo and top German

forward Oliver Bierhoff.

Nonetheless, Guadalajara's love affair with Brazil continued. The 58,000-seat Jalisco Stadium was a sea of yellow and green.

During the World Cup competition in 1970, Brazil was based here. That year, Pele carried the team to their

third World Cupvictory. Brazil came back in 1986 but was eliminated by France in the quarterfinals

"In 1970 and 1986 I was too young, but now I can enjoy it," said Hector Sandoval, a 25year-old construction worker in a Brazil jersey and joker's hat. "We're celebrating, drinking a few beers - and dancing samba, of course."

Four teams are based in Guadalajara, Brazil, Germany, New Zealand and the United

Four others are in Mexico City, Mexico, Bolivia, Saudi Arabia and Egypt. After a

round-robin in each city, the top two teams of each group will advance to the semifinals.

ovan Kirovski scored the winner as the United States beat New Zealand 2-1 in the Confederations Cup soc-

The Americans went ahead in the 25th minute, when John Harkes passed up the middle and McBride headed

Twelve minutes into the second half, Eddie Lewis centered a corner kick, and Kirovski headed it past New Zealand goalie, Michael Utting.

New Zealand's only goal came on a free kick in the final minute of the game that Chris Zoricich fired into the net. The crowd clearly favored

New Zealand, booing every time the Americans got the ball and roaring when New Zealand

"I'm rooting for New Zealand because they're the underdog. And I'm against the United States because they treat the Mexicans who go up there badly," Ricardo Hernandez, a 21-year-old student, said.

Many in the near-capacity crowd at the 58,000-seat Jalisco Stadium left at the conclusion of Brazil's 4-0 victory over Germany, and most of the rest trickled out during the sec-

The United States and New Zealand are considered the weaker teams in the Guadalajara group, and American coach Bruce Arena had said the United States needed this victory if it were to have any hope of advancing in the tournament.

The top two teams in this group advance to the semifinals, along with the top two of the Mexico City group.



SOUTH AMERICA

BRAZIL LOSE BIG NAMES FOR CONFED CUP

ith big-name stars like Ronaldo, Rivaldo and Roberto Carlos sitting out, Brazil began training with a team made up of young players who many say still could win the Confederations Cup. Six of Brazil's top players wanted a

break after the Copa America, which Brazil won and the team that coach Wanderley Luxemburgo brought to Mexico is young.

But nobody is counting them out of the competition, and Luxemburgo said he still hopes to finish first in the group of

Even so, many Mexicans have criticized the Brazilian team, saying they wanted to see the big stars play.

In a poll released by the Center for Opinion Studies, 90 percent of those surveyed in Guadalajara said they disapproved of the team that Brazil brought, and of a similarly young squad brought

The poll had a margin of error of plus or minus 6 percentage points.

Luxemburgo refused to discuss the controversy at a news conference.

"Talking about players who aren't here doesn't get us anywhere," he said. "The

He said Ronaldinho has a lot of talent and said he hopes he will develop into a major figure in soccer

Ronaldinho seemed a bit overwhelmed by the attention. He smiled sheepishly at the children screaming his name, and gave minimalistic responses to questions

about the fame during a news conference.
"I'm OK. I'm calm. I'm just worrying about playing soccer," he said.

It was clear from the crowds at their hotel and training camp that the Brazilians are the darlings of the Guadalajara public.

People spoke of the beauty of their



occer star Ronaldo said he doesn't know a Brazilian woman who allegedly Organized sessions of sex and drugs for soccer players, businessmen, actors and other clients in Italy.

A Milan prosecutor asked a judge to indict the woman, Lazara Souza De Morais, 31, who was arrested in March on charges of abetting prostitution and selling cocaine, Italian news agencies reported.

Ronaldo, a Rio native, who plays in Italy for Inter, expressed anger over Italian news reports that there was a photo of him together with Morais.

"I take thousands of pictures with people everyday and my phone number is easily available. It has even been published by a newspaper in Italy. People should have to prove what they say," Ronaldo told reporters at the national cancer institute in Rio de Janeiro where he was donating prize winnings from the Copa America.

Ronaldo said he planned to sue the Italian papers that published the report.

Italian news reports said Morais' high-class clients paid hundreds, even thousands of dollars, to spend time with her or with one of a group of women working for her.

Investigators reportedly found an address book containing clients' names and 36 photos of Morais with several of the men.

Brazil's Ronaldo claimed a double triumph saying he had won both the Copa America and his year-long fight to regain fitness.

Teammate Rivaldo, who finished alongside Ronaldo as the competition's joint topscorer with five goals, was equally elated after suffering bitter criticism earlier in the competition.

Asked if he saw the 3-0 final win over Uruguay as a victory for Brazil or himself, Ronaldo replied: "Both at the same time."

"After a year of suffering, indecision, uncertainty and treatment, this is a very important moment and I'm very happy," he said. "I thank God, I thank my team-mates, I thank (coach).

DON'T KNOW HER SAYS RONALDO

Wanderley Luxemburgo, for the confidence in

"It has been a very difficult year and to be able to run and not feel any pain has been wonderful, this has been one of the most important moments of my career."

Ronaldo came into the tournament after an injury-plagued season in Europe.

While he may not have done enough to claim the crown of world's best player, something which he was recognised as before last year's World Cup in France, he proved that he is nearly back to his devastating best.

Rivaldo's battle was to convince the Brazilian critics that he is as good for the national team as he is for his Spanish club

Bitterly criticised for his performance in the 2-1 quarter-final win over Argentina, Rivaldo replied with the second goal in the 2-0 semifinal win over Mexico and then two goals against Uruguay in the final.

"I don't think I have anything to prove to anyone," he said. "I know there was a lot of criticism but I just concentrated on playing my game. In five games I played, I scored five goals and for me this is important."

Rivaldo's confidence had grown so much by

the second half on Sunday that he even tried a shot with his right foot, which he almost never uses, and came close to completing his hat-

He was singled out for praise by his coach, who has kept faith with a player he coached during a spell with Sao Paulo club Palmeiras.

"Rivaldo showed today that he can play this function in the Brazil team, distributing the ball and making the team play," said Luxemburgo.

The Copa America was Luxemburgo's first competition since taking over from Mario Zagallo in August.

He now looks forward to the World Cup qualifiers, which start in March, and will also take charge of the team for the 2000 Olympic

"Today was important for the conquest and for the future." he said.



four teams competing in Guadalajara. Another four are playing in Mexico City. and the best two of each group will meet for the semi-finals.

"Brazil really has two national teams that are at a world-class level," said Elias Torres, a 39-year-old teacher who stopped by to watch the practice. "I think they could still win the cun."

important thing is the group that is here."

In the young Brazilian team, the rising star is Ronaldinho, a 19-year-old forward who became a public favorite even before his beautiful goal against Venezuela in the Copa America.

"It isn't one goal that gives you the right to be on the national team." Luxemburgo cautioned.

play, and made clear that that superseded anything else.

'Most of us like the German team because they're very handsome," said Veronica Icazbalceta, who works at the offices of a Mexican soccer team. "We like the Brazilians because they play well '

MEXICANS ESCAPE BAN

AFTER DRUG SAGA

IFA president Sepp Blatter lifted the six-month suspensions for performance-enhancing drug use given Mexican internationals Raul Lara and Paulo Cesar Chavez, saying that tests on them were carried out by unrecognized laboratories. The lifting of the suspensions imposed

the South American Football Confederation (CSF) during the recent Copa America in Paraguay, headed off a eatened boycott of the Confederations Cup by Mexican players.

In a show of solidarity with their team-

mates, Mexican players had threatened to boycott the competition, in their home

Lara and Chavez were suspended after testing positive for testosterone and nandrolone respectively following a firstround Copa America match against Brazil

The CSF said Lara had tested positive



a second time after his team's subsequent match against Venezuela

But Blatter said FIFA did not accept the results because the doping controls were carried out by a laboratory not recognized by FIFA or the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

"They (Lara and Chavez) have FIFA's permission to play in the Confederations Cup," said Blatter

World soccer's governing body said the case would now be passed to its disciplinary committee where a final decision would be taken.

The lifting of the bans avoids another possible setback for the problem-plagued Confederations Cup, a FIFA-organized competition featuring winners of recent continental championships.

It had already been postponed from January under pressure from European nations who said it clashed with their domestic soccer program.



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AFRICA

Soccer Weekly

BIG TROUBLE IN PERUG

the sight of fighting footballers is appalling enough, but when the brawl takes place in an exhibition match, one wonders where the escalation of violence will end.

Even when Eric Cantona launched his flying kick at a fan and Paolo di Canio pushed a referee to the ground, they could at least claim they had boiled over in the heat of competition.

But fighting broke out in a 'friendly' match between Libya's national team, which included a son of the country's leader Colonel Gaddafi, and Italian Serie A

Players on the pitch were joined by colleagues from the substitutes' bench and the game had to be stopped after only 17 minutes.

Italian TV showed players shoving and chasing each other and at least one player being carried to an ambu-

Two Libyan players are reported to have suffered broken cheekbones, while Gaddafi's son, Al-Saadi Gaddafi, was escorted out of the stadium in Norcia, a town near Perugia, by security men

The fighting started after a Perugia striker converted a penalty. Seconds later, another Libvan defender committed a foul and the brawling began.

Libya - coached by Italian Eugenio Bersellini - had only recently returned to the sporting arena after Gaddafi banned all sports contests, especially soccer, in the early 1980s.

He said then that soccer only allowed 22 people to play, while everyone should be allowed to join any game in this game, everyone did join in, to trade

Perennial underactievers Zimbabwe suffered a dou-ble blow when they were eliminated from the Castle Cup and surrendered top spot in an African Nations Cup qualifying group

Outsiders Swaziland won a dramatic Southern Africa championship tie 4-3 on penalties following a 1-I draw to reach the semifinals for the first time in three appearances.

whelm Eritrea 6-2 and replace Zimbabwe at the top of a three-team mini-league, whose winners will complete the line-up for the 2000 Nations Cup in Ghana and Nigeria.

Wild celebrations in the kingdom of Swaziland included the Home Affairs Minister dancing in the dressingroom and the victorious squad visiting King Mswati at his palace

Ranked 139th, the Swazis were given little chance of toppling a Zimbabwean team unbeaten in six matches under senior Dutch coach Clemens Westerhof.

When defender Kaitano Tembo headed Zimbabwe in front from a 60th-minute corner, Swaziland appeared doomed as their unimaginative attack had rarely troubled goalkeeper Muzondiwa Mugadza.

But as a cup tie virtually devoid of constructive foot-ball drew to a close, a controversial penalty award by the Mozambican referee threw a lifeline to Swaziland.

Television replays showed the shirt of Swazi substitute Bongiswa Nhlabatsi being pulled by Dumisani Mpofu outside the penalty area before he fell inside the

> Ice-cool Bongani Mdluli sur vived lengthy Zimbabwe protests to convert the spot kick and Swaziland scored from four shootout attempts while Tembo and Maxwell Dube failed for Zimbabwe.

Senegal overtook Zimbabwe on goal difference by rediscovering their scoring touch to humiliate Eritrea with Salif Keita and Omar Traore grabbing two goals each.

It was a remarkable turnaround by the West Africans who had managed only four goals in their previous four matches and never scored six since making their Nations Cup debut 32 years ago.

Eritrean resistance lasted just 120 seconds before Pape Sene headed in a corner.

Belgian-based star Keita then took control to score and create the third for Traore.

> he former goalkeeper of the Algerian The former goalkeeper ...
> National Liberation Front, Abderrahmane Boubekeur, is dead.

He died last week in Nice, France, aged 67, following a cardiac arrest.

On 5 July, he and 12 members of the first post-independence Algerian national football team had jointly participated at a ceremony for renaming the Grande Post Square, officiated by presient Abdelazi Bouteflika.

Boubekeur was born 9 March, 1932 in Algiers. His football career began in 1945 when he played for the Algerian Croissant Club.

A year later, he moved to the Saint-Eugene sports association, where he remained until the early 1950s.

He then signed as a professional with AS Monaco, where he stayed for five years before being recalled to play for the National Liberation Front team in 1958.

After Algeria's independence from France in 1962, Boubekeur played for several clubs, including MC Algiers, USM Algiers and IS

Between 1962 and 1964, he was selected eight times to play for the national team. Later, he coached several clubs.

eems Patrick Naggi will still remain the AFC Leopards coach- cum-team manager as Diego Romano may not take up the coaching job, after all.

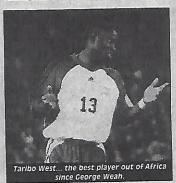
But club secretary Antony Walela said they may still have to do with the local man (Naggi) who took up double responsibility a month ago following the dismissal of Martin Ndagano from Burundi.

Walela said Naggi enjoyed good statistics in the five matches he had coached the team; three

BAFANA BAFANA AMES S

orld Cup discard Brendan Augustine was a surprise inclusion in the Bafana squad to play Namibia in the Cosafa Castle Cup quarterfinal clash in Windhoek on July 31.

With only four of his foreign-brigade available for selection, coach Trott Moloto was forced to name an 18-



man squad made up of mainly local players

Moloto said the majority of the European players were either in camp with their respective clubs or were not available for the international this week

"We wanted to take those players to Namibia but I believe we have a well-balanced team which can beat Namibia." Moloto said.

The overseas quartet are Turkey-based trio, Godfrey Sapula, who is with Ankaragucu, Alfred Phiri (Genclerbirligi) and Pollen Ndlanya (Goztepi) along with Swiss-based striker Shaun Bartlett of FC Zurich.

THEOREMAN SO WAS A SO Former Lask striker Augustine, who has returned to South Africa from Austria and is now with Ajax Cape Town, was part of Phillipe Troussier's World Cup squad last year, and along with former Orlando Pirates' midfielder Naughty Mokoena, was sent home in disgrace after the pair ignored a player curfew imposed in Vichy during the tournament.

The former Bush Bucks striker consequently lost his place in the national team and has failed to make Moloto's team since he took over as coach last August.
"I believe he has paid his dues," said Moloto. "I had a

look at him before he left Austria and was impressed with his commitment and workrate.

"It was really a matter of time before he was recalled and I have always said when the right time comes along he will would be selected." Moloto said.

In the absence of Leeds United captain Lucas Radebe, Orlando Pirates midfielder John Moeti and Bolton Wanderers Mark Fish, Moloto had yet to decide who will captain the team.

There are a few players who have led their club sides and it is just a matter of looking for the player with the personality and character for the national job.

We will name the captain before we leave for Windhoek on Friday.

The South African squad is as follows: Goalkeepers: Brian Baloyi (Kaizer Chiefs), John Tlale (Sundowns).

Defenders: Themba Mnguni (Sundowns), Matthew Booth (Ajax Cape Town), Clyde Mahlangu (Supersport United), Fabian McCarthy (Bloemfontein Celtic), Papi Khomane (Orlando Pirates).

Midfielders: Joel Masilela (Sundowns), Thabo Mngomeni (Orlando Pirates), Papi Mbele (Sundowns), Junaid Hartley, Godfrey Sapula (Ankaragucu, Turkey), Jerome McCartney (Santos), Alfred Phiri (Genclerbirgi, Turkey), Brendan Augustine (Ajax Cape Town).

Strikers: Pollen Ndlanya (Goztepi, Turkey), Daniel Mudau (Sundowns), Andries Sebola (Orlando Pirates), Shaun Bartlett (FC Zurich, Switzerland).

Bafana Bafana deserved to play their next Cosafa Cup match at home, coach Trott Moloto said in Johannesburg.

"It is not fair that we should be playing all our match es away from home in this competition and I will insist that we play our semifinal at home," Moloto said at a press conference at Soccer City where he named his 18man squad for the Cosafa Cup quarterfinal against Namibia in Windhoek on July 31.

Bafana Bafana played their first round match against Botswana in Gaborone in February and were drawn to play their next Cup match in Windhoek.

The Confederation of Southern African Football Associations (Cosafa) authority had also decided that a draw would be conducted for the semifinals at the end of the match this weekend, but Moloto felt this was unac-

They (Cosafa) want the top teams to play in those countries who have a lesser ranking in CAF or FIFA, to perhaps draw crowds at these matches.

"In terms of our standing in CAF and FIFA, we should also play at home. If the draw went against us in Windhock then we would play away again," Moloto said.
"If we win through to the final then there is that possi-

bility we could play that final away as well. Our supporters will not see us play in this competition and that is not good for us.

Based on the possibility of not playing at home, Moloto questioned whether it would be feasible to continue playing in this competition next year.

"We may have to review our participation next year, if we have to play away all the time."

Meanwhile, Moloto included two additional players to his 18-man squad as part of his youth development pro-

Stephen Pienaar, a product from the Esselenpark School of Excellence, and Bloemfontein Young Tigers playmaker Sello Kgabo have been named to join the squad in training next week.

"Pienaar did well with the U17s when I coached them and he is a good prospect for the future. Sello showed his ability with Young Tigers and was impressive when he played against Kaizer Chiefs earlier this year," Moloto said.

"They will train with the squad and see what it is like to be with the national team and perhaps gain some experience.

They will not be going with us to Namibia, but I want to develop these youngsters and I thought this will serve them well."

In another development, SA Football Association CE Raymond Hack announced that Boebie Williams from Port Elizabeth would coach the national U17 team.

"He will take charge of the team as soon as he arrives. The U17s will play their first fixtures next month and will engage in provincials as well in preparation for the four-nations tournament against France, Germany and



Italy in a DaimlerChrysler tournament in Germany in December," Hack said.

He also announced that the national U20 coach would be named over the next three to four weeks.

"We were not happy with the applications for this post and decided that we will go head-hunting for the right. man. The post will be advertised," he said.



 Are you in trouble with the Federation and have to appear before one of their tribunals?

 Do you have a dispute with your current Club/Team?

 Do you need assistance in relation to your contract negotiations with a soccer club?

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ITALY

Soccer Weekly

MILAN READY TO RECLAIM EUROPE

MILAN

1899

C Milan staked its claim to the European Cup held by Manchester United, as the Italian champion began preparing for its entenary season.

Coach Alberto Zaccheroni and club officials, congratulated by hundreds of fans who converged on their training base here, are convinced they have an even better team than last season, and are setting themselves

Vice-president Adriano Galliani said: "It's a fantastic season for us because it's our centenary, you'll recall that the club was founded on Dec. 16, 1899, and because the dream we had last year of playing this season with the "scudetto" (league) badge sewn onto the shirts, came true."

Paying tribute to Zaccheroni, who won the league title in his first season after Milan had been through two years of torture, he added: "We went from 10th place to first. And we are very proud of him."

Zaccheroni was more interested in the future, saying: "Our aim is to finish in the top four in the Serie A — to ensure ourselves a place in the Champions League again next season — and in the Champions League this season, we want to go as far as we possibly can.

"We are starting out with a good dose of enthusiasm, and winning the league last season has given us extra confidence.

"I'm personally pleased to have been kept on," he said with a grin, "the players have stayed and the season ticket sales shows that the fans are with us too.

"We've got a balanced team, self-belief and we've got the certainty that we have

added a number of good players. They will enable us to take a step up, in terms of quality," he insisted. The club have made nine new signings, seven of them Italian, as

signings, seven of them Italian, as part of the club's recent policy of looking for local talent, plus Brazilian midfielder Serginho and Ukrainian striker Andrei Shevchenko, bought from Dynamo Kiev.

"There are seven teams who have a chance of winning the championship, and all of them have been strengthening their squads, and all have made a particular effort in their foward line," Zaccheron said.

"It's something we have to get used to. There are more clubs now who are capable of finding the financial resources needed to put together a highly competitive team."

Skipper Paolo Maldini, who has already won three European Cups with the club, most recently in 1994, said: "It's great to be back in Europe. And to be coming back through the front door."

Milan will make that return wearing replica shirts of the first ones ever to be worn by the club, which was founded by an Englishman Alfred Edwards, as "Milan Cricket and Football Club."

The shirts, with narrow red and black stripes, plus a full button-up collar and the City of Milan insignia on the chest, will only be used for the European ties.

The centenary celebrations, christened "100Milan" and featuring a museum exhibition plus cultural and charity events, was kicked off at San Siro stadium last Wednesday night, when the whole squad was presented to the fans.

Zaccheroni, who has taken Milan supporters to a different planet since becoming coach, drove onto the pitch aboard a replica moon-buggy.

Milan's pre-season matches start this week, and as Galliani pointed out: "We are going to be particularly busy in August when we are playing against some of the best teams in Europe."

After two years without official European football, Milan will play an exhibition tournament in Paris with Paris St Germain and Bayern Munich (Aug 2), a friendly in Leverkusen against Bayer (Aug 6), and another in

Trieste against Benfica (Aug 13) before meeting old foes Juventus for the Berlusconi Trophy (Aug 17).

Their first official match will be the Italian Super Cup against Parma (21 Aug), the weekend before the Serie A starts.

Foreign players look set to become a rare species at champions AC Milan after the Serie A giants' decision to buck the trend and buy Italian.

Much of the blame for the club's troubles in previous seasons has been laid at the door of foreigners who haven't fitted in, who've been floored by the language barrier, the style of football and a new way of life.

By contrast, the team's three revelations last season were all young Italians — goalkeeper Christian Abbiati, defender Luigi Sala and midfielder Massimo Ambrosini, who subsequently broke into the national side.

Club vice-president Adriano Galliani that Milan have taken things a stage further by signing seven Italians and just two foreigners—Brazilian Serginho and Ukrainian Andriy Shevchenko—for next season.

"With the support of our president Silvio Berlusconi, the Club has decided to 'Italianicize' the squad more, while at the same time keeping an eye on talent from outside Italy," he said.

"If a great talent like Andriy Shevchenko is born in Kiev, then he is welcome at Milan, as is Serginho from Sao Paolo. But clearly, we have a strong Italian base to the team and that's something we want to increase fur-

ther, though we also want to add top foreign players.

"Let's not forget that the great Milan side of the early years (of Berlusconi's presidency) was the team of Baresi, Costacurta, Maldini, Tassotti, Donadoni and Ancelotti, but it was also the team

of Gullit, Rijkaard and Van Basten.
"We are faced with a global market and we don't want to isolate ourselves. So the attitude is 'a majority of Italians, but an eye on talented players wherever they are born'."

Coach Alberto Zaccheroni was keen to stress that he wanted an essentially Italian team.

"I set three criteria for our moves on the transfer market," he said. "Firstly, the players must be good, secondly they must be young and thirdly, if ssible Italian.

"I know that foreigners might have more appeal, but you can also find good players in the Italian championship."

The issue of foreign players is an increasingly sensitive one in Italy, ever since the "Bosman" ruling in 1995 by the European Court which allowed clubs to sign unlimited numbers of European Union (EU) players

Italian soccer and government officials have supported moves to persuade the EU to re-establish limits on foreigners, arguing for an exception to legislation on the free movement of workers.

However, Galliani doesn't believe that such limits as recently sought by FIFA president Sepp Blatter will see the light of day.

"I think it's absolutely impossible to introduce such a regulation," he said. "I don't think it could ever happen.

"Speaking personally, with a team that's got more Italians in it than other clubs, such a thing would be to our advantage. So if I was thinking purely of Milan, then I'd say 'yes' to it.

"But it would require a change to the Treaty of Rome and the unanimous support of all the countries in the European Community.

"And as you know, footballers are considered as workers now and the idea of ending their right to work within the European Union, as citizens of the EU, 1 think would be something extremely difficult to make happen."



VIERI...GIVE



TIME

nter Milan's new signing Christian Vieri asked the club's fans to give Ronaldo and himself time to build a winning striking partnership.

partnership.
Inter splashed out nearly \$50 million to buy Vieri from Lazio with club president Massimo Moratto pairing the world's expensive footballer with probably its most gifted striker; Ronaldo.

But Vieri sent the San Siro faithful a warning about the new season, as the team started their preseason training — don't expect instant success.



Vieri has told the fans to give Ronaldo and himself some time to gel.

"With Ronaldo next to me, I'll avoid at least 50 percent of the kicks that I usually get from defenders," he quipped.

The Brazilian star was held back by tendon trouble throughout last season, but has recently shown signs of being back to his dazzling best.

"I've seen him in action in the Copa America he scored goals, broke forward and was always looking for the ball," said Vieri.

"I'm not the sort who goes around making predictions, but if the pair of us are able to stay fit, then we are going to have fun, that's for sure. This is a team of champions.

"On paper, we aren't a bad strike partnership. But if I don't know how he likes to move and he doesn't know what I like, how are we going to catch our opponents by surprise?

"So I'm asking people to have a bit of patience and to not expect everything to work straight away. We are getting down to work now with enthusiasm and with the best will in the world.

"But that's all I feel able to guarantee at the moment."

Vieri, who has been with eight different teams in eight years, also said he had no regrets about giving up the chance of playing in the European Champions League with Lazio to join a club who won't be playing in Europe for at least a year.

"Everyone sees things their own way," he said.
"I'm really pleased with the decision I've made
and I've got no desire to keep on switching teams.
So I hope that everything goes smoothly now and

that I can stay at Inter as long as possible.

"Lazio gave me the European Cup Winners' Cup and some very intense emotions at the very end of last season, when I left the pitch in tears," he said, harking back to the final day, when Lazio were pipped by AC Milan for the league title.

"But if Inter do well in the league next season, then we are going to grab people's attention all round the world, and the fact that we're not in the European cups will not be such a disadvantage.

European cups will not be such a disadvantage.
"And anyway." he added mischievously. "Who is to say that Lazio aren't going to get knocked out in the first round?"

Roberto Baggio is looking to make amends to Inter Milan president Massimo Moratti after what he called a "nightmare" season with the club.

Baggio's arrival from Bologna last summer

helped to make Inter the pundits' favorite for the Serie A title.

Injuries to both Baggio and Ronaldo — along with a run of dismal results and four consecutive coaches — made it one of the club's worst seasons for decades.

Now the team has been re-built under new coach Marcello Lippi and Baggio is keen to repay a few debts,

"Last season people talked about Inter too much," he said. "And what could be an advantage for us now is that this season Inter are seen as just one of the favorites, and not the favorites.

"When I said last year that we had a great team it was true. But then the problems started and they ended up ruining everything; the season became a nightmare, nothing went right and even the easiest things became complicated and even embarassing."

A divided locker-room was one of the major problems, but Baggio preferred to remain silent. "I knew what happened," he said. "But it wouldn't be right for me to explain it."

But asked if he felt indebted, he admitted: "Yes, I do. To Inter, but also to Moratti. If I'm fortunate enough to be playing in a big team once again, I owe it to him."

Baggio will, meanwhile, have to build a new relationship with Lippi — one of the men held responsible by many for Baggio's unexpected departure from Juventus in 1995, usurped by his then understudy Alessandro Del Piero.

Playing down his first chat with Lippi at Inter, Baggio said: "He didn't say anything in particular: just that I was part of his plans and that I would be staying ... I've had far fewer problems with coaches than people make out; I had four of them last season, ask them."

Baggio won the league with Lippi in their last season together, playing alongside Turin heroes Gianluca Vialli and Fabrizio Ravanelli. Next season, he will join another all-star attack with Christian Vieri and Ronaldo, and the parallels have inevitably been drawn.

"Let's just say that there's good reason to think that some things could be repeated," he said.

"(Ronaido and Vieri) are both two great players, but Inter fans have had enough of dreams. After what happened last season, I'd rather just wait and see. You can't take anything for granted."



Roberto Baggio is ready to strike this year at Inter after a quiet season.

Baggio, 32, has another year of his contract at Inter, but no plans, or need, to retire. His kind of creative genius remains a rare thing, even in Italian football.

"I think that soccer has always lived on creativi-

ty," he told the Gazzetta dello Sport.

"Having an organized system of play is fundamental, but at the same time, it's the thing that's 'different', that's unexpected, which brings people to matches and makes them love football."

EUROPE

WORLD DANKINGS

Brazil's 3-0 victory over Urnguay in the Copa America
final has strengthened its grip on the top spot in the FIFA world rankings.

Brazil have 835 points, 73 clear of World Cup holders France, with the resurgent Czech Republic in third place in the new list.

Uruguay's performance in reaching the Copa final saw it

rise 32 places to 42nd, while Peru jumped 24 places to 41st.

Trindad and Tobago's victory in the Copa Caribe saw it

1. Brazil
2. France
3. Czech Republic
4. Italy
5. Germany
6. Argentina and Croatia719
8. Spain
9. Romania
10. Norway
11. Mexico
12. Portugal
13. Holland
14. England
15. Sweden
16. Paraguay
17. Denmark
18. Colombia
19. Morocco
20. Austria
21. Yugoslavia
22. Chile
23. Slovakia
24. Ukraine
25. Israel
26. Poland
27. Russia
28. Tunisia
29. South Africa
30. United States
Selected
31. Scotland
32. Zambia
36. Republic of Ireland
37. South Korea
43. Jamaica
44. Japan
58. China



f the rejuvenation of one of Europe's renowned soccer teams occurs this year, the first steps of that transformation could begin this week in the United States.

Amsterdam-based AFC Ajax, once the crown jewel of European soccer, is looking to turn its fortunes around.

Following a dismal sixth-place finish last year in the Dutch Division and a mass exodus of players to a host of top continental clubs, coach Jan Wouters is utilizing a short U.S. tour to work out the kinks in his new-look team.

"Things are going well for us," said Wouters as he hustled his team off the field and onto a waiting bus'following practice at Babson College only hours after touching down at Logan International Airport.

The players are getting fit, and they are ready for the new season," he said.

"The team is hungry for success," said team manager David Endt. "Last year was a disaster by our standards, and there's an atmosphere of expectation this year, by the players and the fans."

Ajax and success have traditionally gone hand in hand.

The team has won the coveted European Championship four times, including three titles in succession between 1970-73, when Dutch soccer was in its heyday.

AJAX LOOKING TO GET BACK NTRAGRIN

Despite winning 27 league titles, Ajax has gone comparatively dry in Europe since then, with only the 1995 European Championship to show for along with lesser trophies including the 1987 Cup Winners Cup and the 1992 UEFA Cup.

Since 1995, players making up a veritable who's who of European soccer leaving Ajax include: Jari Litmanen, Michael Reiziger and the de Boer brothers, Frank and Ronald, all of whom joined Barcelona; Marc Overmars and Nkwano Kanu (Arsenal); Edgar Davids and Edwin van der Sar (Juventus); Patrick Kluivert (AC Milan); and Finidi George (Real Betis).

Additions to the side are impressive nonethe-

less, including the recent \$8-million signing of Greek international Nikos Machlas from rival Vitesse Arnhem, where he scored 60 goals over the past three seasons.

Wonters will have added strength in midfield with newly signed Dane Brian Laudrup and the return of Dutch international Aron Winter, a key in the early-90s Ajax

"This [tour] gives us the opportunity to try some [experimenting] in the team," said Winter after the team arrived at

"We have a very good team, a lot of good players, but last year we didn't play well," he said.

Nikos Machlas scored for Ajax against the New England Revolution "Our goal at least is to win something [in Europe] this year and keep the distance short between us and the other great kick.

Paired with Machlas up front this season will be Brazilian Wamberto, who netted 12 goals last year. South African sensation Benni McCarthy, who led the team with 13 goals last year, was not on the roster for the tour.

Although the team has been training for the past three weeks and has handily defeated four Dutch amateur sides, this trip will be a proving ground for the team, according to Endt.

'The team is working very, very hard," said Endt. "Players have to prove something and they expect success this year.

On July 31-Aug 1, Ajax will host Brazil's famed Santos and Italian side Lazio before opening its league season against rival Feyenoord on Aug. 8.

> Shota Arveladze's goal in the 66th minute gave Ajax of Amsterdam a 2-1 win over the New England Revolution in an exhibition game. It was the first

> American game for the renowned Dutch team that is on a three-game exhibition tour.

The four-time European champions and defending Dutch League Cup holders opened the scoring in the 10th minute on a 5-vard shot by Nikos Machlas.

New England tied it in the 56th minute on Jamar Beasley's goal off a pass from Johnny Torres.

Ajax got the game-

winner 10 minutes later when Arveladze headed in Brian Laudrup's corner





he European Commission fined the organizers of the 1998 World Cup in France a symbolic 1,000 euros for favoring French residents in ticket sales.

The Commission said the fine was relatively light because it was the first time it had reviewed ticket sales for a sports event and it therefore accepted that the organizers could not have foreseen their legal prob-

But it warned sports event organizers that in future it would take a tougher line.

"With the publication of this decision...the Commission expects tournament organizers in the future to ensure that any ticketing arrangements comply fully with EU competition rules and will not hesitate to

take action against them where they fail to do so," the European Union executive said.

The Commission, the European Union executive and competition watchdog, last year criticized the French organizing committee of the World Cup, CFO, for selling the bulk of World Cup tickets in France well ahead of the summer 1998 finals.

The Commission stepped in to oblige the CFO to open up allocation of the last tranche of tickets but by then, fans complained, it was already too late to redress the situation.

The Commission has recently approved the ticketing arrangements for the Euro 2000 football tournament organized jointly by Belgium and the Netherlands.

ENTZO TO PLAY E FINAL GAME



Francescoli will play in one more game before saying bye to the sport he loves.

JIFA world player of the year Zinedine Zidane is poised to top the bill at a match to mark the retirement of Uruguayan forward Enzo Francescol

The match, which will pit Francescoli's last club River Plate, based in the Argentinian capital, against the player's favourite club Penarol of Montevideo.

Zidane, born in Marseille, has frequently said he heroworshipped the Uruguayan when he played for the French first division club. And France's World Cup winning playmaker even named his son Enzo.

Organisers said Zidane's club side Juventus had said he could attend the gala match.

Francescoli played in Argentina, France and Italy as well as his homeland and was a member of Uruguay's World Cup squads in 1986 and 1990.

EUROPE

25

GERMAN SOCCER SUXS SAYS HAMANN

erman international Dietmar Hamann, who now plays for the British club FC Liverpool, blasted the soccer in the Bundesliga for lack of "fair play" in a magazine interview.

"There's more fairness in England than in the

There's no complaining, no one provokes yellow cards, no one takes a dive," Hamann said in the latest issue of Kirker the German soccer weekly

"If you provoke a penalty shot [in Britain], you'll be on the front pages of the newspapers for four weeks," said Hamann.

Hamann blossomed into one of the Premier League's top midfielders last season after leaving Bayern Munich to play for Newcastle United.

The 25-year-old has also emerged as a key player on the rebuilding German national team after departing for Britain.

Hamann said young German players don't get a fair chance at the top German clubs.

"I'm a different player, but I'm not really different," Hamann said. "But I couldn't really develop at Munich the way I wanted. There's a huge difference if you know a club is behind you — or if you're the eternal apprentice."

Munich has had several young players leave, partially because the German champion traditionally raids other Bundesliga clubs for proven players and emerging stars.

Hamann was also heavily recruited from Borussia

Dortmund before transferring from Newcastle to Liverpool.

German TV channel TM3, which pulled off the Coup of the year in German sports broadcasting by buying the rights to Champions League soccer, aims to triple its market share in the long term, a

magazine reported.

The women's TV channel, controlled by media mogul Rupert Murdoch's News Corp Ltd., plans to use the soccer rights to boost its market share in the long run to 2.5 percent from some 0.8 percent, TM3 Managing Director Jochen Kroehne said

Media guide Hoerzu quoted Kroehne as saying that he also planned to broaden the station's evening programming to reach other target groups and that such an increase would put it in a league with second-tier general audience stations in Germany.

"We now see ourselves as an entertainment channel," Kroehne said. "Buying the (Champions League) rights is the best thing that could have happened to TM3 but it is not enough. After all, there are only 17 weeks a year featuring top European soccer." TM3 in May bought the rights to broadcast

TM3 in May bought the rights to broadcast European Champions League matches for the next four seasons in Germany beginning in September for some 200 million marks per year, beating out the previous rights-holder, top German commercial network RTL.

News Corp President Peter Chemin was quoted last month as saying that he would accept losses at TM3 in the first two years in order to boost market share.

VAN GAAL STAYS AT

BARCA UNTIL 2002

Barcelona coach Louis van Gaal has agreed a two-year extension to his contract, the club said.

The new deal, announced by club president Josep Lluis Nunez, will keep the Dutchman at the Nou Camp until the end of the 2001-2002 season.

Van Gaal, who has suffered almost constant press criticism despite guiding Barca to the Spanish League title in each of his two seasons in charge, had said he was unlikely to stay on after his original three-year contract was up at the end of the forthcoming season.

Soccer Weekly

But the progress made over the last two years and particularly during the second half of last season, when Barcelona recovered from 10th place in the table to take the title by 11 points— has apparently convinced the coach he can achieve his aim of winning the European Cup.

RUSSIANS MARCH OFF

Russian League mid-table clash between Vladikavkaz and Volgograd ended abruptly when the visitors marched off in protest over the refereeing in the 70th minute with the score at 1.1

The Volgograd coach Viktor Prokopenko led his team off after the substitute referee Georgy Savchuk, who came on at half-time after the original referee fell till, awarded a penalty against Volgograd just minutes after disallowing them a goal.

The Professional Football League (PFL) commissioner of the match Nikolai Shushpanov, who defended the referee's decisions, falled to persuade them to return.

The PFL authorities said that Volgograd could face a fine and be penalized with a 3-0 defeat for taking the action.

Hungarian soccer appears to be in turmoil two

the governing body missing more than half of its members and in financial trouble.

Janos Szaniel, the Hungarian Football Association's (FA) last active vice-president, resigned after the FA's board meeting.

His departure, coming weeks after that of the other vice president Janos Imro, reduced the board to seven members from the 15 elected last year and leaves it below quorum.

The PA will hold an extraordinary general meeting on August 9, after FIFA warned it to sort out the accounts following an audit which found irregularities.

"The upcoming general meeting has to deal with the situation," Szaniel said, but he refuted press reports that the was FA was paralyzed. Many Hungarian clubs are also having financial

Many Hungarian clubs are also having financial problems with players uncertain whether they would be offered contracts and unsure if the clubs could afford to honour them if they were.

World Cup tickets easier to obtain



British soccer fans have welcomed plans to reform World Cup ticket sales, even though it could mean fewer home fans will see the games if England land the prize of hosting the 2006 finals.

The European Union is eager to avoid any repeat of the France '98 ticket fiasco when the game's premier tournament returns to Europe.

The European Commission will insist that in future tickets are made equally available to all members of the continent's public instead of just supporters from the home nation

Alison Pilling of the Football Supporters' Association is convinced the plan will improve ticket distribution and won't necessarily mean a snub for British fans.

"If England stages the World Cup in 2006 and all tickets are equally available I still think the home nation will still buy up the majority of them, especially in a nation of football-lovers like ours. It's about having a fair crack of the whip," she said.

"In fact it would allow fans from Scotland and Wales a better chance because they were treated the same as foreign fans during Euro 96 and allocated only the number of tickets allocated to competing nations."

Equal access for tickets means fans from all European member states will be able to buy them, but Pilling believes most will still go to fans in the host country because they don't have to travel and their team has automatic qualification.

The EU has fined the organisers of France 98 a minimal \$1,050 for their controversial ticket policy, and the Commission are likely to come down harder in future if tournament organisers break the new guidelines.

These rules will apply to future international sporting events, said EU spokesman Stefan Rating, and the organisers of next year's European Championships in Holland and Belgium have already been briefed.

The English Football Association are not worried about the impact of the new European Union ticket proposals on domestic showpieces like the FA Cup.

The EU Commission has decided everyone should have equal access to tickets for major sporting events in Europe after the debacle of France 98 — when thousands of fans outside the host nation were denied tick-

Strictly speaking, this would allow anyone from a European member state to apply for tickets on general sale for the FA Cup final, a Five Nations rugby international or Wimbledon.

On the other hand, British sports fans would have a better chance to see the French Open tennis or an Italian Cup final.

The FA were not unduly concerned, however, about the impact on the FA Cup final, although they stressed crowd segregation remained a key issue.

Spokesman Steve Double said: "We certainly don't believe this would affect a domestic competition like the FA Cup.

"We would certainly expect to argue that proper segregation and security is of paramount importance and would certainly outweigh arguments in favour of an effective free-for-all."

Champions League Qualifying

n Yerevan: Zalgiris Vilnius (Lithuania) 3 d Tsement Ararat (Armenia) 0

Scorers: Igor Novikov 7, Andrius Jokshas 32, Nerijus Vasilauskas 65

Zalgiris win 5-0 on aggregate Next; v Dynamo Kiev (Ukraine).

In Baku: Kapaz Ganja (Azerbaijan) 2 d Sloga Jugomagnat (Macedonia) 1

Scorers: Kapaz - Ramiz Mamedov 19, Vidavi Rzayev 90pen

Sloga - Rafik Arif 34
Aggregate 2-2. Sloga win on away goal rule.

Next: v Brondby (Denmark).

In Chisinau: Zimbru Chisinau (Moldova) 5 d St Patrick's Athletic (Ireland) 0

Scorers: Boris Tropanets 25, 40, Vadim Borets 31, 75, Igor Oprea 83pen

Zimbru win 10-0 on aggregate and now play Next: v Dynamo Tbilisi (Georgia).

n Riga: Skonto Riga (Latvia) 8 d Jeunesse Esch (Luxembourg) 0

Scorers: Imants Bleidelis 37, 50, Mihails Miholaps 39, 55, 63, 85pen, 90pen, Vladimirs Koleschenko 77 Skonto win 10-0 on aggregate.
Next: v Rapid Bucharest (Romania).

n Tirana: IBV Vestmannaevjar (Iceland) 2 d SK Tirana (Albania) 1

Scorers: SK Tirana: Sokol Bulku 82 IBV: Johanesson 33, Sigurdson 48 IBV Vestmannaevjar win 3-1 on aggregate Next: v MTK Budapest (Hungary)

n Tallinn: Partizan Belgrade (Yugoslavia) 4 d Flora Tallinn (Estonia) 1

Scorers: Flora - Kristen Viikmae 52 Partizan - Mateja Kezman 10, 69, Sasa Ilic 20, Dorde Tomic 82

Partizan Belgrade win 10-1 on aggregate. Next: v Rijeka (Croatia).

n Helsinki: Haka Valkeakoski (Finland) 6 d HB Torshavn (Faroe Islands) 0

Scorers: Janne Salli 26, Martin Reynders 44, Kai Nyyssonen 46, David Wilson 63, Valeri Popovitch 80, Tommi Torkkeli 90

Haka win 7-1 on aggregate. Next: v Rangers (Scotland).

Soccer Weekly

Spanish international full back Sergi Barjuan warned Barcelona he is still considering offers to move away from the Nou Camp.

Sergi, one of the most consistent performers in the

Barcelona side over recent seasons, has long been a target of English and Italian clubs, who would have no problem paying his buy-out clause of 3,000 million pesetas (\$18.86 million).

And the 27-year-old defender has dropped his strongest hint yet that he could opt for a lucrative move abroad.

"Ive always said I've had offers to leave Barcelona," Sergi told Barcelona newspaper Sport. "The phone hasn't stopped ringing this summer

"I'm line here at Barcelona but if I have to leave then I will do. I don't want to say that I'm not happy here but anyone would listen to the sort of offers I'm getting

Sergi was linked towards the end of last season with a

move to join his former teammate Albert Ferrer at Chelsea.

Fiorentina, Inter Milan and Roma are also monitoring the player's situation, according to reports.

rgentine international Eduardo Berizzo completed a 20-Amillion francs (\$3.3 million) transfer from River Plate to Olympique Marseille.

I want to become ch impion of France and Europe," said the 29-year-old central defender who won three Argentine titles with River Plate.

"OM is a great club and I'm sure I'll have a great season in their jersey."

Signed on a three-year contract as replacement for France's World Cup libero Laurent Blanc, Berizzo said he had no qualms about being compared with the former Marseille captain who recently joined Inter Milan.

"It's inevitable even if Laurent Blane is irreplaceable. I must do all I can to give OM my savoir-faire, with my own qualities and without living in another's shadow," Berizzo

Berizzo, who began his career at Newell's Old Boys and spent two years in Mexico playing for Atlas in the mid-1990s, said he had no fears about adapting to his new club and a new country.

"OM are a team that play attacking football, like Argentine football in general. As for the pressure surrounding the club, I know what it's all about because there's the same pressure at River Plate.

Marseille coach Rolland Courbis said: "He's a central defender who's good in the air. His experience will steady the team and give it confidence."

onaco have signed Chilean international defender Pablo M Contreras from Colo Colo, the French first division club's general manager Henri Biancheri said.

The 20-year-old Contreras helped Chile finish fourth in the Copa America, the South American championship, in

Contreras will be the second Chilean playing in the French first division after fellow international defender Pedro Reyes, who joined AJ Auxerre last season.

Porward Stephane Chapuisat has returned to Switzerlandto join Zurich Grasshoppers after eight seasons with Borussia Dortmund.

The Swiss international, capped 73 times, provides the scoring threat the club has been lacking since the departure of Kubilay Tuerkyilmaz late last season.



Stephane Chapuisat

One of the most prolific scorers in the Bundesliga, Chapuisat, 30, collected 102 goals in 218 matches helping Borussia Dortmund to two league titles and a European Cup.

The fee involved is reported at 1 million Swiss francs (\$647,200).

Chapuisat became available after the arrival

of Fredi Bobic and Victor Ikpeba in Dortmund left the Swiss fourth choice behind Heiko Herrlich.

The move is the first major signing by the financially trou-bled club since it was bought last month by group of



play in the Cup in the middle of the league's pre-sealmost everybody in German soccer that isn't with the national team in Mexico seemed to have something to say about the

And almost all the comments were scathing.

Bayer Leverkusen, expected to challenge Bayern Munich for the Bundesliga

title this season, has six starters playing for either Brazil or Germany's national teams while the rest of the team toils in a pre-season

Confederations

"It's a disaster for us we can't get tuned up," said striker Ulf Kirsten, one of the many German stars that have begged off from the

So many top German players have dropped out, with the first division season kicking off Aug. 14, that German coach Erich Ribbeck admits he had to call up some players he has never even seen play.

Stuttgart midfielder Heiko Gerber thought it was a joke at first upon hearing he was nominated.

"I'm not one of the 50 best players in Germany," Gerber said.

Schalke club manager Rudi Assauer took a swipe at the German officials that agreed to let the team

"The first week of the war finished with

Lazio vs. AC Milan, and at the time, the only

thing people wanted to know was what did

(Deian) Stankovic and I have on our minds

the war became something normal. It's incredi-

ble how people can get used to anything."

therefore to defend the Milosevic regime.

the national cause as being over.

"Once that match was over and done with,

Mihajlovic clearly sees his job of defending

The defender, who still has family in

Belgrade, sai,: "During the war, I took advan-

tage of my popularity to defend my people, and

But he added: "My job finished there and

then. "Now is the time for reconstruction and

therefore for politics. But I am not a politician.

while we were playing.

He said the team was thrown together like the pickup matches he played as a boy.

"This is supposed to be our national team? It's just like old times - players from Bahnhof Street against

EORMER PLAYERS

T/AGK

(0) // 1/

the tournament and added that players were being forced to play too many matches these days.

Nobody will remember who won or lost these [Cup] matches," Lizarazu said. "Pretty soon we're going to have 200 matches in a year. That's too much; it won't work. The soccer federations are going to

have to figure something out.

Munich defender Markus Babbel, lately a starter on the national team, just appeared relieved he wasn't in Mexico.

"I'm a player that needs good preparation for the sea-son," Babbel, "That's why I'm happy Coach [Ribbeck] honored my request not to play."

Assauer slammed Franz Beckenbauer, a powerful sports figure in Germany who holds several important soccer posts. One is chairing the country's World Cup bid.

European champion Germany had agreed to replace the World Cup winners, France, at the event in hopes of boosting its bid to hold the

"It's laughable when the president of Bayern Munich and the vice-president of the soccer federation can just enter

us in the Confederations Cup without taking to anybody beforehand," said Assauer of Beckenbauer.

Vinisa Mihajlovic, Lazio's Yugoslav defender who led protests over the NATO air-raids against his homeland, is ready to re-discover the joys of soccer.

Mihailovic was a spokesman for the many Yugoslav sportsmen in Italy during the wan Kosovo, criticising the bombing, lobbying politicians and appearing on TV wearing Peace, No War" T-shirts.

Now the bombing is over, the football star who added his support to Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic wants only to concentrate on enjoying his career.

"The joy of playing soccer is something that I'm only going to get back this season," he said. "Last spring, it was a just a job. I didn't even get angry when we conceded a goal.

Beurer Street," he scoffed.

French World Cup hero Bixente Lizarazu, a Bayern Munich midfielder, questioned the worth of

7 1

thnic Albanians took the field for Pristina's soccer team for the first time in nine years last week, another sign that simple pleasures are returning to the province battered by Serb forces and NATO bombard-In an assertion of ethnic Albanian freedom,

Pristina faced Tetovo of Macedonia before an emotional crowd of more than 20,000 people basking in the moment.

The final score wasn't important, but it added to Pristina's joy: The home team won, 4-3.

"We are free, and we are watching our team," said Nazmi Humolli, 65. "I haven't seen a match for 10 years. I was the biggest fan in all Pristina."

The ouster of the ethnic Albanian players was a small part of a pattern of repression imposed by Serbia a decade ago, when Kosovo was stripped of its autonomy within the Yugoslav republic.

Thousands of ethnic Albanians lost jobs, while businesses and Albanian cultural institutions were

Kosovo Albanians responded by setting up parallel institutions, including a soccer league.

The players from the Pristina club competed on village fields and in ramshackle stadiums against other Kosovo Albanian clubs. Police sometimes stopped games.

Then came the war with Serbian forces. At least one player died in an execution, and another served as a guerrilla commander, said Ejup Osmani, the club's secretary. Others became refugees, and some hid. The last inter-Albanian game played was in January 1998.

After Serbian forces left Kosovo in mid-June following NATO's 78-day air war, Pristina club offi-cials came back to the stadium to find the field ruined, the electrical and watering system ripped out and offices smashed.

They refurbished as much as they could, and the field was in decent shape for the match. With only two weeks of practice, the squad was tired, Osmani said during the game.

That didn't matter to Ahmet Gjakolli, 12, who

was watching his first major soccer game.

"It's very, very important. They are playing well, and not being interrupted by Serbs," he said, a bullet with an Albanian double-headed eagle pasted on it hanging around his neck.

It was an all-Albanian game: Tetovo's predominant ethnic group is Albanian, and the game was played partly to thank the Macedonian town's residents for taking in Kosovo refugees during the conflict.

A moment of silence was held at the beginning of the game for ethnic Albanian victims of he conflict. Fans later chanted the names of ethnic Albanian leaders

After the game, fans marched up Pristina's main street, beating drums, singing team songs and carrying red Albanian flags. Some had their hair painted blue, the team color.

The next big date on the sports calendar: a July 25 match against a team from the NATO force that is now deployed in the province.

UK

Soccer Weekly

SIR ALEX THE ACTOR FEELS SORRY FOR COLOSIMO

anchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson received his knighthood from the Queen and then readied himself for his movie debut.

Ferguson was honored in the Queen's

Birthday List after guiding United to victory in the English Premiership, FA Cup and European Cup last season.

After receiving his knighthood at Buckingham Palace, Ferguson said: "The Queen told me she doesn't think it will ever

be achieved again --and she's right.

"The culmination of three trophies was the pinnacle of my career and it has been rewarded with a knighthood," said Sir Alex, sporting a kilt in Dress Ferguson tartan.

"It's such a proud moment for me, my family and for the club — because it is a team effort.

"This is the medal that recognizes all the other ones I've won in football. "Football management is all about winning trophies and I'll be happy maintaining success. I don't set any particular targets just win what you can."

Now Dumbarton Football Club, who play in the Scottish third division, have lined up Sir Alex to appear in Robert Duvall's movie The Cup, which is being filmed at the club's Boghead ground.

Already 1,400 free tickets have been given out for scenes being shot at the ground when Sir Alex is due to play a cameo role seated in the directors box.

Club spokesman Ian MacFarlane said a good crowd for the club would normally be just over 600.

"It will be tremendous for us, and the spin-offs of the film have been wonderful," MacFarlane said.

"People have been falling over us to talk about sponsorship and trackside advertising."

Club managing director Neil Rankin and director Jim Innes approached Sir Alex at a dinner in Blackpool, where he told them he would welcome the chance to appear in the film, which stars Scottish football great Ally McCoist.

Glasgow-born Sir Alex has strong links with the club and took his Manchester United team to play in a friendly at Boghead in the summer of 1991 when goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel made his first appearance for the team.

The film follows a team of no-hopers who make it to the Scottish Cup Final and also stars Alec Baldwin, Billy Connolly and Alan Cumming.

Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson has sprang to the defense striker Andy Cole.

Sir Alex, who received his knighthood from the Queen at Buckingham Palace earlier backed Cole after he was accused of jeopardizing the career of one of Australia's brightest prospects, defender Simon Colosimo.

Colosimo's dream move to Europe is on indefinite hold after he suffered a serious knee injury in a tackle from Cole during United's tour game against Australia in



Sydney last Sunday.

Colosimo's club Carlton is seeking compensation and could even take legal action against Cole or United.

But Sir Alex, who saw the challenge on television back in Manchester, insists the England international did not intend to injure the left-back.

"Andy Cole wouldn't do anything malicious — he isn't that type of player," he told the Manchester Evening News.

"It's very unfortunate and I feel for the lad, but these things can happen. "They have to look at the player as an individual and Andy Cole just isn't like that."

Colosimo faces six months out of action with cartilage and lateral ligaments damage after Cole caught him high on his knee with his studs.

Ruud to get transfer fund

ICI NANG

Ally McCoist will be the star of the new film which also features Sir Alex Ferguson.

R £40m transfer fund designed to bring the Premiership title to St James' Park.

The Newcastle boss will be one of the main benefactors of the £160m takeover of the club by American cable giants NTL, which is expected to be completed shortly.

It will mean substantial cash being released for teamstrengthening as the club go in search of their first major trophy since 1969.

Gullit, who already has a shortlist of major Continental targets to add to his £17m summer infusion of new talent, which includes Ipswich Town's England Under 21 star Kieron Dyer, will be given the financial muscle to compete at the highest level.

The budget set aside for new players — £20m now and £20m to follow within 12 months — will allow the ambitious Dutchman to become one of the biggest spenders; in Parmoe

Stars like Fiorentina's Manuel Rui Costa and PSV Eindhoven's Ruud van Nistelrooig will all come within Gullit's price range.

NTL pulled the plug on the much-heralded takeover earlier this year in the light of BSkyB's failure to wrest control of Manchester United.

But it has been revealed that talks between NTL and Newcastle have been going on over the past weeks and the club is confident that there will not be Government opposition to this high-profile acquisition of a major Premiership club.

It is a timely move for Newcastle, who have stretched their resources to the limit in expanding St James' Park to a 51,000-capacity stadium in time for the start of the 2000-2001 season while handing Gullit considerable funds.

The sale of the club represents a huge windfall for the Hall family, who originally bought the club in a bitter power struggle in 1991 for an outlay of about £3m.

Major shareholder Douglas Hall is poised to receive £92m for his holding and will then sever all connections with the club. Current chairman Freddy Shepherd will collect around £18.5m for his shares but is likely to maintain a seat on the board.

However, the control of the club will be firmly in the



Ruud Gullit will be given funds to help bring the Premiership title to Newcastle.

hands of NTL, who will appoint their own chairman to run the football club. They are committed to backing Gullit, who took over from Kenny Dalglish 11 months

He will be offered a licence to attract the players Gullit feels can help him challenge Manchester United, Arsenal and former club Chelsea for the Premiership title

Gullit has insisted that Newcastle must improve on last season in which an appearance in the FA Cup Final — and a disappointing one at that — failed to compensate for a continuous, frustrating struggle in the League.

His transfer pot once NTL bed themselves in will be the envy of most other Premiership managers. The club are desperate to reward the loyal Toon Army with silverware, which has been sparse over the years.

Successive managers have been backed with considerable cash to spend in the transfer market. Kevin Keegan was allowed to spend £60m, recouping £21m, while Dalglish splashed £35.5m and brought in £26m from sales

The headache for Gullit is to try to move on the dozen or so players he has decided no longer have any future on Tyneside.

But with the imminent arrival of NTL, who already own a 6.3 per cent stake in Newcastle, it means that the spending will not only go on but will be allowed to escalate under Gullit.

POYET SET TO STAY ON AT THE BRIDGE

ustavo Poyet is on the verge of committing himself to Chelsea's Premiership challenge by signing an improved contract to remain at Stamford Bridge.

The 31-year-old Uruguayan midfielder,

The 31-year-old Uruguayan midfielde whose absence through injury was seen as a key reason for Chelsea falling short in last season's championship race, is ready to sign the new deal and turn his back on a possible £9m move to Roma.

Chelsea have moved swiftly to defuse Poyet's reported dissatisfaction at what he sees as the inequality of the club's wage structure.

New signings Didier Deschamps and Chris Sutton are believed to be earning in excess of £30,000-a-week. The player's Spanish-based agent Paul Hodges said: The truth is that Gustavo doesn't want to leave Chelsea.

"That doesn't mean that he wouldn't leave because if someone offers you three times your wages then you have to think about it. But even then it would depend

on what club it was and whether Chelsea want to sell him, and hopefully they don't.

"My gut feeling is that Gustavo will be at Chelsea for the next couple of seasons, winning league titles.

"We are talking about a new deal and, hopefully, there will be news within the next week."

The bad news for Chelsea is that Poyet appears certain to miss the start of the Premiership campaign on August 7 and is doubtful for the club's Champions League qualifying the next month.

Chelsea made no comment on reports

Chelsea made no comment on reports that the Uruguayan, who has scored 19 goals in 57 games since arriving from Real Zaragoza on a free transfer in June 1997, underwent a cartilage operation on June 7.

It had been reported from South America that Poyet was kicked on the knee by a Uruguay team-mate in light training ahead of the Copa America.

HILLSBOROUGH DISASTER RETURNS

LIVERPOOL

wo retired police officers will stand trial next month on manslaughter charges over the death of 96 soccer fans in the 1989 Hillsborough disaster.

After a hearing to determine the legality of a private prosecution brought against the former high-ranking officers by families of the dead, a Leeds magistrate ordered both men to stand trial on Aug. 24.

Former Chief Superintendent David Duckenfield, 54, and former Superintendent Bernard Murray, 57, are accused in the deaths of John Alfred Anderson and James Gary Aspinall on April 15, 1989.

Duckenfield and Murray, who were granted bail, are also accused of willful neglect of public duty.

Anderson and Aspinall were among Liverpool fans who were crushed to death after being herded into an already crowded and fenced-in enclosure during

the FA Cup semi-final against Nottingham Forest.

Two earlier attempts in 1990 and 1997 to prosecute the case have failed with the Department of Public Prosecution ruling sufficient evidence was lacking.

Lawyers for Duckenfield and Murray had attempted to block the case from reaching hearing stage.

But a support group for families involved in the tragedy, the Hillsborough Family Support Group, won the right to proceed with the prosecution.

Soccer Weekly



erry Yorath has warned Terry Venables of the "stupid" bureaucrats he will have to deal with if he becomes Wales manager.

Former England coach Venables is the favourite to succeed Bobby Gould, who quit last month.

VENABLES WARN

But Yorath, whose Welsh reign ended acrimoniously six years ago, spoke of the frustrations of dealing with the council of the FA of Wales.

He labelled them "butchers, bakers and candlestickmakers" who still operate in the dark ages.

Venables, out of football since leaving Crystal Palace last season, admits he is in the running to take charge.

But Yorath warned: "When you're out of work anything appeals to you. I would just say to him, take it over with a pinch of salt. You have to present your team to the FAW council and they have to approve it - which goes back to the dark ages.

They then actually tell you, if they want to, if they didn't want someone in the squad.

"I am certain over the past couple of years they might have said to Bobby Gould, 'Listen, Ryan Giggs isn't turning up for games. Don't pick him'.

"That's how stupid they get. They are butchers, bak-ers, candlestick-makers."

Yorath was sacked after Wales failed narrowly to qualify for the 1994 World Cup finals, while Venables led England to the semi-finals of the European

Championship two years later.

"Being an international team manager is a full-time job but with the Welsh FA you never know what they are thinking," said Yorath

I would have loved the Welsh FA to go for a Welshman. But if they don't think there is one good

enough then obviously Terry's record, especially at international level, is very good.

"It's a big job, it's fantastic. If he can deal with the FAW council the playing side is easy.

"It's a lovely job to have, any job where you're dealing with the best players is fantastic."

Yorath insists he is not bitter about the way he left, adding: "I've been there, seen it and done it. And I survived.

"The way it was handled was very bad but those days have gone and I have moved on."

> The FAW have so far made no decision on who Gould's successor will be made but are waiting until secretary-general David Collins returns from holiday at the end of July.

But Peter Nicholas has insisted Venables was the man to lead Wales out of the doldrums of the Gould era.

Nicholas played under and coached alongside Venables during his two spells in charge of Crystal Palace and is convinced his old mentor can revitalise Welsh football.

"A strong boss is needed who will

play and not worry about upsetting star players," said former Wales midfielder Nicholas. "I'm not criticising anybody but it seems player power forced Bobby Gould out and you can't have that.

"It wouldn't happen with Terry. Players would auto-

matically respect him.

"I was never in a Welsh squad where anybody didn't want to play.

"It's not on when players don't try or the manager is arguing with the players."

However Wales skipper Gary Speed has urged his country's soccer chiefs to give former England boss Terry Venables the manager's job.

The former Tottenham and Barcelona manager is the man the Football Association of Wales want and has already had talks about taking the hot seat.

Speed says Venables is the ideal candidate to replace Bobby Gould, who resigned last

"I've chatted with a few England players, including my Newcastle club-mate Alan Shearer, and they all agree that Terry Venables is one of the best coaches in the world," said Speed.

"Whoever the FAW go for, it is essential they are appointed soon, well before our last two Euro 2000 qualifying matches against Belarus away and Switzerland at home.

We have lost our chance of qualifying for the finals, but the new manager must be given the chance of working with the squad before we go into the World Cup campaign.



COLLYMORE NO ORE AT

ASTON VILLA

Normer England striker Stan Collymore said he was looking forward to kick-starting his career at Fulham after moving to the club on loan from Aston Villa.

The 28-year-old joined the first division side

are in and is hopeful he can persuade Fulham manager Paul Bracewell to make it a permanent move.

Villa boss John Gregory has left Collymore in little doubt that his future lies away from Villa Park after he missed part of last season because of treatment for depression.

"I would be happy to come to Fulham," said Collymore. "I don't think it's any secret that at Aston Villa the manager in particular doesn't want me hanging around for much longer so I want to go somewhere I'm wanted and play football and Fulham have offered that."

Bracewell said he had no doubts about signing a player who has acquired a reputation for being a handful in the dressing room and left his last three clubs in acrimonious circum-

But Collymore knows he will be under close scrutiny during his three-month loan spell at Craven Cottage

He said: "Fulham want to look at me closely over the next three months and it gives me an opportunity to look around for myself and see what our capabilities are, but I would love to come to the club

"I'm absolutely delighted to be here. Once I

knew of Fulham's interest and spoke to their people, I was very impressed by the set-up and what they hope to achieve over the next two or three years.

"Paul Bracewell is a new manager but I've been very impressed with his ideas and enthusiasm and that's music to my ears.

Ironically, Collymore's problems at Villa started when Fulham came to Villa Park in the FA Cup last

The striker failed to turn up for the tie when Kevin Keegan's team upset the odds by beating the Premiership club and Villa soon announced Collymore would be undergoing full-time treatment for depression.

Collymore and the rest of the Fulham are in Scotland on Tuesday for a pre-season tour which included games against Hearts and St Johnstone on Saturday.





Soccer Weekly



COVENTRY AND GO INTO BAY



oventry City chairman Bryan Richardson has returned fire at Aston Villa manager John Gregory in the feud between the Premiership's West Midlands rivals.

Richardson accused the young manager of '100 per cent inaccuracy' in his recollection of controversial events leading up to the £4.5m transfer of George Boateng, which is under investigation by the Football

Gregory has denied he made an illegal approach for the 23-year-old midfielder, who moved to Villa Park last week. But rather than dampen the fires of controversy, the transfer of the former Holland Under 21 captain has served to underline the rift between the clubs

There is little doubt Aston Villa have that 'Big Brother' aura while, just a few miles down the M6, Coventry are regarded as a club desperate to 'keep up with the Joneses'.

Such a comparison does not sit easily with Richardson whose ambitions for his club have involved funding manager Gordon Strachan's £20m spree on new players and the go-ahead for a £150m hi-tech stadium.

Yet, for all the club's big plans, they have lost two quality players to the old enemy. Dion Dublin's £5m defection last season was tough to take, especially after they believed they had secured the England striker's long-term services by agreeing to a £20,000a-week pay demand.

Now Boateng, with two impressive seasons at Highfield Road under his belt, has followed in his footsteps. The suspicion that both players had been 'tapped' has only made matters worse.

Richardson said, "There is no need for bad blood

but the way they have dealt with Boateng and the Dion Dublin transfer has irritated a lot of people. "But Richardson is not adverse to a skirmish, especially with Gregory.

He has inferred that Gregory is a headline-seeker and claimed there had been a plot by Villa, involving Dublin, to unsettle Boateng and pave the way for his departure.

Richardson is incensed that Gregory said an official £3m bid for Boateng was made after the player scored twice in a 4-1 victory at Villa Park last February and that it was the Coventry chairman who invited Villa to make an offer at the end of last sea-

Richardson said, "It is well known Gregory loves to make statements to the media but Coventry City act in the best interests of our players and the club which is why we always have happy players. In this case, what he said was 100 per cent inaccurate and needs a response.

"Villa made an approach which is still being looked at by the FA. Boateng's agent has confirmed

as billed as a new dawn for Liverpool, but

he had a direct approach and Boateng confirmed to us he was approached by Dion Dublin after our game at Villa Park

"It's only because of him becoming unsettled by their approaches that we even considered selling him at all.

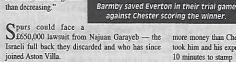
A replacement for Boateng became Coventry's priority this summer. They signed Morocco midfielder Mustapha Hadji for £4m only 24 hours before releasing the Dutchman.

Villa, meanwhile, seem intent on mopping up available talent in the area. Apart from Dublin, they signed Steve Stone from Nottingham Forest for £5.5m last season and have now targeted Wolves' 19year-old Irish forward Robbie Keane

Gregory and Villa chairman Doug Ellis were at

Molineux for the pre-season game against Liverpool ready to make a £5.5m bid for the teenager but Wolves' managing director John Richards has warned there's no cut-price deal in the offing.

He said, "We have not vet received an offer that is even close to our valuation on the player. He is still very young and I see his value increasing rather than decreasing."



Advisers for Garayeb have threatened to sue the north London club over what they claim is a breach of contract and are prepared to take their action to FIFA and the courts if necessary.

The crux of the dispute is the legitimacy of the contract the Israeli's lawyer, Joel Goldberg, has in his possession. Goldberg claims it is a binding agreement ratifiable by FIFA.

A copy of the letter he sent to Tottenham demanded £650,000 compensation by August 1 for 'heavy losses and damages to (Garayeb's) image, reputation, pain and suffering and for the shame'.

Goldberg's argument is that Spurs had no legal right to pull out of the £1.5m deal agreed with Israel club Hapoel Haifa in May because they weren't happy with the findings in Garayeb's medical exami-

He claims that the player's ever-present record for his club over the past two seasons is proof enough of his fitness and that Tottenham's concerns over Garayeb's X-rays were invented as an excuse because

the club had second thoughts over the deal

Goldberg alleges that Garaveb originally chose Tottenham ahead of Villa and Anderlecht and lost his bargaining power as a result of the aborted deal with the White Hart Lane club.

Tottenham, on the other hand, refute Goldberg's claims. They say the contract signed and handed over in May was no more than written confirmation of Garayeb's salary terms in the event of the player passing his medical.

They also maintain that the announcement of Garayeb's signing in May was premature. Spurs amended the terms of Garaveb's proposed four-year deal after the player's X-rays revealed an undeclared potential injury worry.

The club wanted to review the 25-year-old's health

after each season

evin Ratcliffe's born-Kagain Chester made Everton look far from a million dollars as they pushed the Premier League side all the way.

Ratcliffe's breadline club have been saved from extinction by American investor Terry Smith's pounds 500,000 buyout and but for Nick Barmby they would have celebrated a famous win

Barmby is still worth more money than Chester could ever dream of but it took him and his expensive team mates until the last 10 minutes to stamp their superiority on their Third Division rivals.

Ratcliffe's team were full of confidence and good ideas, buoyant after the news they would have a future courtesy of the American benefactor.

Striker Luke Beckett put Chester's sell-out crowd into a state of frenzy with the opening goal from a penalty after he had been fouled by Steve Simonsen.

Walter Smith squirmed uneasily as he watched his team struggle to make an impact until Dave Unsworth headed home a corner with 12 minutes left.

Barmby - a recent target for Celtic - curled home a sweet 25-yard shot to give Everton an undeserved lead soon after.

Young sub Darren Wright stabbed home an equaliser that was celebrated with a double somersault that will delight his new owner.

However Barmby tried his luck from 30 yards and got lucky as keeper Neil Cutler dived over the shot and handed Everton a face-saving victory.

Sunderland, newly promoted to the Premier League, said Sit plans to increase the capacity of its stadium from 6,000 to 48,000.

"When the design and budgeted costs are finalized we will proceed once we are satisfied that there is a sustainable demand," chairman Bryan Sanderson said in a statement.

The project should cost some six million pounds and planning approval has been given by the local council in the north-eastern English city.

Despite playing in the first division, Sunderland attracted

the third highest average attendances in English soccer last season, topped only by Premier League giants Manchester United and Liverpool,

Sunderland reported pre-tax profit of 1.47 million pounds in the year to May 31, up from 564,000 the previous year.

Portsmouth striker John Durain will miss the opening weeks of the English first division season after dislocating his elbow in a freak golf cart accident.

Durnin, 33, is likely to be out until September following surgery on the injury. He was hurt after overturning the cart during a round at Woodbury Park, near Exeter.

The ex-Liverpool and Oxford midfielder, who was playing golf with Irish international Alan McLoughlin, rolled the cart in a hollow as he hunted for a ball off the fairway.

Portsmouth manager Alan Ball said: "It was just one of those crazy things. The two of them had only gone out to knock a few balls about late in the evening.

"The problem was that it was a strange golf course to him and he didn't know the lie of the land. He was talking to Alan at the time as they searched for a ball off the fairway and hit the hollow.

"It was just a freak accident but the buggy turned right over and John was in a fair amount of pain. He has had the elbow reset and his arm is not in plaster but he will be out for six weeks."

iverpool manager Gerard Houllier has finally completed his move for Dietmar Hamann from Newcastle in a deal said to be worth in the region of £8 million.

And the move is likely to hasten the exit of England international Paul Ince from Liverpool to Middlesbrough.

Hamann who was also being headhunted by German club Borussia Dortmund was originally in favour of a move to Arsenal, But when the London club broke off negotiations Houllier swooped for the German international midfielder.

iverpool's Norwegian defender Frode Kippe has joined striker Michael Owen on the sidelines after he broke his cheekbone in training.

The Norwegian suffered the injury in an accidental clash of heads and he is expected to be out for a month.

England international Owen is still recovering from his hamstring injury and is unlikely to figure in any of Liverpool's preseason friendlies.

He is not expected to be fit for the start of Liverpool's Premiership campaign on August 7. although manager Gerard Houllier believes he will



be back in action some time in August.

Arsenal captain Tony Adams will miss the first six weeks of the English premier league season and England's next two internationals after having surgery on a double hernia.

They said the 32-year-old defender was unlikely to be fit for England's European championship qualifiers against Luxembourg and Poland on Sept. 4 and 8.

The premier league season starts on August 7. Adams had the operation late last week and will not be able to return to full training until fate August.

Liverpool boss Gerard Houllier, pleased with the night's work from his side, insisted afterwards that was there to finish it off," he said.

> 26 minutes indicated as much.

Patrik Berger escaped down the right, and a clever little ball offered Fowler the merest of glimpses just inside the penalty area.

With barely a backlift, the ball was dispatched with venomous power into the left-hand corner to leave Houllier quietly con-

"Robbie was very sharp, very lively, and the best

thing was that he worked hard outside the box, but

"It was a tremendous goal, and he has worked so hard. He's back all right, and if he keeps that sharpness and attitude, I'll be delighted."

Houllier has every right to be. He has made some tough decisions over the summer, and in bringing in so many foreign players, not all of them have been popular.

Yet this was as impressive a performance as you could take from an early pre-season contest

In the end, a goal from Karlheinz Riedle settled matters with a stunning header from fellow substitute David Thompson's accurate cross.

That came 10 minutes from time, and killed off a pirited Wolves revival, led by their own bright star Robbie Keane.





Soccer Weekly

RANGERS SALUTE **CLUBS MOST LOYAL** SERVANT

an Ferguson banked around £400,000 as Rangers fans saluted one of the club's most loyal servants. A crowd of 38,200 turned out to see Dick Advocaat's side play their final friendly before for the European Cup kick-off in Finland this week by beating English Premiership newcomers Sunderland

But although they came to pay homage to one Ferguson, the fans went home marvelling at FOOTBALL the skills of his midfield namesake, Barry.

The youngster marked his first Ibrox appearance since mid-March with his first goal in ten months and a timely performance, given the competition for midfield places this season with the arrival of American international skipper Claudio Reyna.

READY Giovanni van Bronckhorst was also on target, with Sunderland's new signing from Arsenal, Steve Bould, netting an own goal. Kevin Phillips pulled one back in 75 minutes for Peter Reid's

For 32-year-old Ian, it was an emotional moment some 11 years after leaving St Mirren to join the club he supported. He was given a tremendous reception before kick-off after entering the field in a guard of honour from both teams.

And the ovation increased by a few decibels after the final whistle when the boy raised yards from Celtic Park was greeted by the fans

There were other returns for Ally McCoist - roundly booed when Chris Woods saved one of his half-time spotkicks - and former captain Richard

Former manager Walter Smith and his assistant, Archie Knox, were also among the VIP guests. The only blot on the evening for some fans was the discovery that car park charges at Ibrox have increased from £2 to £7. It was a price hike too far for some, with stewards facing a volley of complaints.

Finnish champions FC Haka, meanwhile, were securing their tie against Rangers by beating Faroese side HB Torshavn 6-0 in Valkeakoski.

Manager Keith Armstrong said, "The boys did everything I asked of them and it was a great result. We are looking forward to playing Rangers here later this

week and will keep the game at our own ground which

has a 3400 capacity.

There was a bit of pressure on us after the 1-1 draw in the Faroes, as we were heavily fancied to win, but it was a fine performance.'

Advocaat sent his assistant, Bert van Lingen, to watch Haka, having himself seen them recently

> cotland's top referees are on a collision Scourse with the Premier League after demanding parity with their £780-agame colleagues in the English Premiership.

With the season due to kick off this week, the refs held an emergency meeting in a Glasgow hotel to discuss their grievance.

Their request for an increased fee has been rejected out of hand by the SPL, who point out that the referees were paid £130 by the SFA before

the formation of the new elite top division.

But George Cumming, Director of Development for the SFA, expressed anger at the SPL's attitude while stressing the referees have opted against launching strike action because of their unwillingness to disrupt the fixture list.

"We asked for an increase in our match fee of £250, but this has been refused and the SPL have not given a reason for this", said Cumming.

"The referees feel very strongly about this decision by the SPL's football board. We are not talking about money here, it is more a question of status.

"The referees feel this is an unfortunate decision given their professional approach to the job. But I must say there is no talk of us

taking direct action because that's not in our nature and we realise we have a responsibility to the game. We just want respect and the status we deserve."

An SPL insider said: "We appreciate the job referees do - without them we would have no football. We will respond to anything they have to say in an appropriate

The League have increased their fee for First Division matches to £160 and will stick with the £130 payment for Divisions Two and Three.



BOSMAN TO BE ENDED BY ANELKA?

Ticolas Anelka's stubborn desire to leave Arsenal now threatens to deal a fatal blow to a football transfer system which is still reeling from the effects of the Bosman ruling.

Jean-Louis Dupont, the Belgian lawyer who led Bosman through his ordeal and cost football clubs millions in lost transfer fees, now believes the French striker will be able to set a legal precedent by successfully serving notice on Arsenal and then quitting the club immediately, offering a financial settlement.

Dupont was reported as saying: "The British courts will rescind the contract and establish an appropriate fee to be paid to Arsenal."

His provisional estimate of the compensation which Anelka might have to pay is reported to be £900,000.

The news comes on the same day as it emerged that Roy Keane's imminent freedom of contract, won by that man decision, means that Inter Milan want him to stall Manchester United until January and then accept an astronomical offer of more than £4m-a-season to play for Marcello Lippi's side.

That is a staggering £80,000-a-week, double what Keane is asking to stay at United, who are refusing to increase their latest offer of £28,000 per week.

But the disruption to the European champions of losing their captain would pale compared to the anarchy which the Anelka saga will bring if he wins his case.

It is understood that Dupont hopes to initiate Anelka's suit in the English courts within a week and start what the Belgian believes could be a remarkably brief case.

Dupont's optimism is shared by Robert Swanney, legal adviser to the Scottish players' union. He said: "Since the Bosman ruling everyone accepts that there is now freedom of movement at the end of contracts but the argument is just as strong within a contract."

If Dupont wins the case, the Football Association may still support Arsenal by refusing to release Anelka's registration, sending the matter to FIFA.

If the world's governing body backed their member association and member club, Dupont would take the case to the European Court, where he won Bosman's historic hattle.

The fact that Anelka is set on joining Lazio, not Juventus, was underlined by the news leaking out of Turin that even a phone call from Juve's World Footballer of the Year Zinedine Zidane failed to move his France team-mate

Arsenal has bid £9m for Juventus' French striker Thierry Henry, though any deal will have to take place without Anelka as part of any bargain.

If Lazio's £18m bid for Anelka is foiled, he and Dupont are willing to set in train a legal procedure to give footballers the same rights as any other worker.

If they succeed, it would virtually end the transfer system as we know it by allowing any player to give notice to his employer and move anywhere he chose even if that was from Manchester United to Arsenal, Inter to AC Milan or Barcelona to Real Madrid -- in

The possibility of losing Keane to Serie A will be almost as devastating to United but it is clear that Inter, Juventus and AC Milan are all queueing up for the influential Republic of Ireland midfielder.

It leaves Keane closer to leaving Old Trafford, something United have acknowledged in serving him with an ultimatum. They want him to make up his mind on their existing offer by the end of the month.

If he continues to reject them, United feel they will have no alternative but to put the fans' favourite up for sale. But the Italian trio, knowing Keane could leave for free in less than 12 months, would come nowhere close to meeting United's £20m valuation, with Inter not prepared to go above £8m.

Keane and his adviser, Michael Kennedy, also know that the prospective Inter offer of £4m-a-season over four years is dependent on the Irishman joining without

HENRY AT ARSENAL?

rsenal manager Arsene Wenger is poised to strengthen his squad by making a £10 million swoop for French World Cup star Thierry Henry.

Wenger, in France with his first-team squad at their pre-season training camp, has been a longtime admirer of the Juventus forward



The Italian club have not insisted that Henry's sale must be linked to the purchase of Nicolas Anelka, clearing the way for Arsenal to increase the number of Frenchmen at the club - they already have Henry's World Cup teammates



Arsene Wenger

Henry is seen as perfect complement to

Dennis Bergkamp up front although Wenger insists a further striker will still be needed.

Last season, 21-year-old Henry declared his desire to play for Arsenal but the Londoners' overtures were rejected and Juventus stepped in. Now, however, Wenger seems ready to meet Henry's wage demands.

Wenger's move has been sparked by his frustration at the long-running saga involving Anelka's proposed transfer to Lazio and the fact that he is running out of time to sign the two strikers he maintains he needs before the start of the Premiership season.

SHOW ME

rophy-winning stars at Manchester United will received massive bonuses of up to £500,000 each if they repeat last season's

The Old Trafford club, while operating a rigid cash ceiling of around £28,000 a week regarding wages, are prepared to push the boat out when it comes to acquiring silverware.

It can be revealed that David Beckham Ryan Giggs, Dwight Yorke and company will have the chance to land considerable extra riches following an agreement with the United paymasters.

This season the senior players will bank £200,000 if they retain the Champions League, £150,000 for successfully defending the Premiership and £150,000 if they land the inaugural World Club Championship to be staged in Brazil in January.

United insist on placing the emphasis on rewarding success rather than offering the biggest wages in the Premiership. The latest cash bonanza being put up for grabs represents a huge financial commitment by the

Although they refuse to alter their wages scales, United believe that their players are more than

compensated, if they deliver the goods, by the staggering bonuses being dangled in front of them.

If United prove to once again be an all-conquering machine then a top player would, taking wages and bonuses into account, earn around £1.75m for a season's work.

The bonuses have been written into the stars' contracts in time for the start of the new season, allowing them the chance of cashing in to the envy of the rest of the Premiership.

Tottenham v

Wimbledon v

Arsenal

Bradford

Chelsea

Coventry

Liverpool

M'brough

Sheff Wed

West Ham

Sunderland v

Wimbledon v

Derby

Everton

Leeds

Leicester

Man Utd

Newcastle

Tottenham

Watford

Arsenal v

Coventry v

Derby

Leeds

Leicester

Liverpool

Man Utd

M'brough v Chelsea

Wimbledon v

Bradford

Newcastle

Sheff Wed

Arsenal

Derby

Leicester v

Liverpool

Man Utd

Chelsea v

Everton v

Southampton v Derby

Tottenham v Leicester

Watford v Leeds

West Ham v Arsenal

Saturday, 16 October

Coventry v Newcastle

M'brough v West Ham

Sunderland v Aston Villa

Saturday, 23 October

Aston Villa v Wimbledon

Bradford v Leicester

Everton v Leeds

Tottenham v Man Utd

Watford v M'brough

West Ham v Sunderland

Chelsea v

Newcastle

Sheff Wed

Southampton

Wimbledon v Bradford

v Everton

Tottenham

Sheff Wed

Chelsea

Watford

Arsenal

Coventry

v Liverpool

v Derby

Southampton

Sunderland

Southampton

Leeds

Saturday, 11 September

Chelsea

Aston Villa

Tottenham

Newcastle

Man Utd

Everton

Leicester

Watford

Sunderland

West Ham

M'brough

Liverpool

Wimbledon

Sheff Wed

Arsenal

Coventry

Watford

West Ham

Newcastle

Aston Villa

Southampton

Sunderland

Man Utd

Coventry

M'brough

Wimbledon

Everton

Bradford

v Chelsea

Saturday, 25 September

٧ Sheff Wed

Saturday, 2 October

Aston Villa v Liverpool

Derby

Saturday, 18 September

Aston Villa v Bradford

Southampton



Soccer Weekly



ENGLISH PREMIERSHI FIXTURES



Saturday, 7 August

- Arsenal v Leicester Chelsea v Sunderland Coventry Southampton Everton v Man Utd
- Leeds v Derby M'brough Bradford

Aston Villa

Sheff Wed v Liverpool Watford v Wimbledon West Ham v Tottenham

Tuesday 10 August

Bradford v Chelsea Sunderland v Watford Tottenham v Newcastle Wimbledon v M'brough

Wednesday, 11 August

- Aston Villa v Everton Derby v Arsenal Coventry Leicester v
- Liverpool v West Ham Sheff Wed Man Utd ٧ Southampton v Leeds

Saturday, 14 August

- Aston Villa West Ham Bradford v Sheff Wed Derby M'brough
- Leicester Liverpool Watford
- Man Utd v Leeds Newcastle
- Southampton Sunderland Arsenal Tottenham

Wimbledon v Coventry Saturday, 21 August

- Arsenal v Man Utd Chelsea v Aston Villa Coventry v Derby
- Southampton Everton Leeds v Sunderland
- M'brough Liverpool
- Sheff Wed v Tottenham
- Watford Bradford West Ham

Tuesday, 24 August

- Arsenal v Bradford Leeds v Liverpool
- M'brough v Leicester Watford v Aston Villa

Wednesday, 25 August

- Chelsea v Tottenham Man Utd Coventry v
- Wimbledon Everton v Newcastle v Sunderland
- Sheff Wed v Derby West Ham v Southampton

Saturday, 28 August

- Aston Villa v M'brough
- Bradford v West Ham
- Derby v Everton
- Leicester Watford
- Liverpool Arsena Man Utd
- Southampton v Sheff Wed
- Sunderland v Coventry
- Saturday, 30 October
 - v Newcastle Arsenal
 - Coventry v Watford Derby v Chelsea

- West Ham Leeds v
- Leicester Sheff Wed Liverpool Bradford

Tottenham

Southampton

- Aston Villa Man Utd Everton
- M'brough Sunderland Wimbledon v

Saturday, 6 November

- Aston Villa v Southampton Bradford Coventry
- Chelsea v West Ham
- Derby Liverpool Man Utd Leiceste
- M'brough Sunderland Newcastle v Everton
- Sheff Wed v Watford Tottenham Arsena Wimbledon v Leeds

Saturday, 20 November

- Arsenal v M'brough Aston Villa Coventry v Derby v Man Utd
- Everton v Chelsea
- Leeds v Bradford Wimbledon Leicester v Southampton Tottenham
- Sunderland v Liverpool Watford v Newcastle West Ham v Sheff Wed

Saturday, 27 November

- Arsenal v Derby Chelsea v Bradford
- Coventry v Leicester Everton v Aston Villa
- Leeds Southampton
- M'brough v Wimbledon Newcastle v Tottenham Sheff Wed v Man Lltd
- Watford v Sunderland West Ham v Liverpool

Saturday, 4 December

- Aston Villa v Newcastle Bradford v M'brough
- Derby v Leeds
- Leicester Arsenal Liverpool v Sheff Wed
- Man Utd v Everton Southampton Coventry
- Sunderland Chelsea
- Tottenham West Ham
- Wimbledon v

Saturday, 18 December

- Arsenal v Wimbledon Aston Villa v Sheff Wed
- Bradford v Newcastle Chelsea v Leeds
- Leicester v Derby
- Liverpool v Coventry M'brough v Tottenham
- Sunderland v Southampton Watford v Everton

West Ham v Man Utd Sunday, 26 December

- Coventry v Arsenal
- Derby v Aston Villa
- Sunderland Everton v
- Leeds Leicester
- Bradford Man Utd
- Newcastle Liverpool
- Sheff Wed M'brough
- Southampton ٧ Chelsea
- Tottenham v Watford Wimbledon v West Ham

- Tuesday, 28 December Arsenal v Leeds
- Tottenham Aston Villa v Bradford v Everton
- Chelsea Sheff Wed
- Leicester Newcastle Liverpool v Wimbledon
- M'brough Coventry Sunderland Man Utd
- Watford V Southampton
- West Ham Derby

Monday, 3 January

- Coventry v Chelsea
- Derby Watford Everton v Leicester
- Leeds Aston Villa
- M'brough Man Utd v
- Newcastle West Ham
- Sheff Wed v Arsenat
- Southampton v Bradford
- Tottenham Liverpool Wimbledon v Sunderland

Saturday, 15 January

- Arsenal v Sunderland
- Chelsea v Leicester Wimbledon Coventry v
- Everton Tottenham
- Leeds v Man Utd
- M'brough v Derby Newcastle v Southampton
- Bradford Sheff Wed
- Watford v Liverpool West Ham v Aston Villa

Saturday, 22 January

- Aston Villa v Chelsea
- Watford Bradford
- Coventry Derby v
- West Ham Leicester M'brough Liverpool
- Man Utd v Arsenal
- Southampton v Everton
- Sunderland v Leeds
- Tottenham v Sheff Wed Wimbledon Newcastle

Saturday, 5 February

- Aston Villa v Watford
- Bradford v Arsenal Derby Sheff Wed
- M'brough Leicester Liverpool Leeds
- Man Utd v Coventry
- Southampton v West Ham Sunderland v Newcastle Tottenham v Chelsea

Wimbledon v Everton

- Saturday, 12 February Arsenal v Liverpool
- Chelsea Wimbledon Sunderland Coventry
- Everton v Derby Tottenham Leeds v
- M'brough v Aston Villa Man Utd
- Sheff Wed v Southampton Watford v Leicester West Ham v

Saturday, 26 February

- Arsenal Southampton
- Bradford v Aston Villa Chelsea v Watford Coventry Tottenham
- Liverpool Leicester M'brough Leeds
- Sheff Wed Newcastle Sunderland v Derby West Ham Everton

Wimbledon v Man Utd Saturday, 4 March

- Aston Villa v Arsenal Derby v Wimbledon Everton v Sheff Wed
- Leeds v Coventry Leicester Sunderland
- Man Utd v Liverpool Newcastle Chelsea
- Southamoton v M'brough Bradford Tottenham

Watford v West Ham Saturday, 11 March

- Aston Villa v Coventry
- Bradford v Leeds Chelsea v Everton
- Sunderland Liverpool
- Man Utd Derby
- M'brough v Arsenal Watford Newcastle
- Sheff Wed West Ham Southampton Tottenham
- Wimbledon v Leicester
- Saturday, 18 March
- Arsenal v Tottenham
- Coventry v Bradford
- Derby v Liverpool
- Everton v Newcastle
- Wimbledon Leeds v
- Leicester Man Utd
- Southampton Aston Villa Sunderland v M'brough

Watford v Sheff Wed

- West Ham v Chelsea
- Saturday, 25 March
- Arsenal v Coventry
- Aston Villa Derby
- Bradford Man Utd Chelsea Southampton
- Leicester Leeds
- Liverpool Newcastle M'brough Sheff Wed
- Sunderland V Everton

Tottenham

Sunderland

Watford

Wimbledon West Ham

- Saturday, 1 April
- Coventry v Liverpool
- Derby Leicester Everton Watford
- Leeds v Chelsea
- Man Utd v West Ham Bradford Newcastle Sheff Wed Aston Villa

Southampton v

Tottenham v M'brough Wimbledon v Arsenal

- Saturday, 8 April
- Arsenal v Sheff Wed Aston Villa ٧ Leeds
- Bradford Southampton Coventry Chelsea

Leicester v Everton Liverpool v Tottenham M'brough v Man Utd Sunderland v Wimbledon

Watford v Derby West Ham v Newcastle

- Saturday, 15 April Coventry v M'brough
- Derby v West Ham Everton v Bradford
- Arsenal Man Utd w Sunderland
- Newcastle v Leicester Sheff Wed v Chelsea Watford Southampton v
- Aston Villa Wimbledon v Liverpool
- Saturday, 22 April Aston Villa v Leicester Bradford v Derby
- M'brough Chelsea Everton Liverpool
- Newcastle Leeds Sheff Wed v Sunderland Man Utd

Southampton v

Tottenham

Watford v Arsenal West Ham v Coventry

- Monday, 24 April
- Arsenal v West Ham

Wimbledon

- Coventry v Everton Derby Southampton ٧
- Leeds Watford Leicester Tottenham
- Liverpool v Aston Villa
- Man Utd v Chelsea Newcastle M'brough v
- Sunderland Sheff Wed
- Wimbledon
- Saturday, 29 April Aston Villa v Sunderland
- Bradford Wimbledon Chelsea Livernool
- Arsenal Everton
- Newcastle Coventry
- Sheff Wed Leeds Southampton v Leicester

Tottenham

Arsenal v

Liverpool

Sunderland

V Watford Man Utd West Ham M'brough

Saturday, 6 May

Derby

Chelsea

Southampton

West Ham

- Coventry Sheff Wed
- Derby Newcastle Leeds Everton
- Leicester Bradford

Man Utd v Tottenham M'brough V Watford

- Wimbledon Aston Villa
- Sunday, 14 May
- Aston Villa v Man Utd Bradford Liverpool
- Chelsea Derby v Everton V M'brough
- Arsenal Newcastle V
- Wimbledon Southampton Sunderland
- Tottenham v Watford v Coventry

Adelaide Signal